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# Kent Archæological Society,

Records Branch.

FOUNDED FOR THE PUBLICATION OF  
RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS RELATING  
TO THE COUNTY.

VOLUME II.



LONDON.

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# Kent Records.

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## A HANDBOOK TO KENT RECORDS.

CONTAINING A SUMMARY ACCOUNT OF  
THE PRINCIPAL CLASSES OF HISTORICAL  
DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE COUNTY,  
AND A GUIDE TO THEIR CHIEF PLACES  
OF DEPOSIT.

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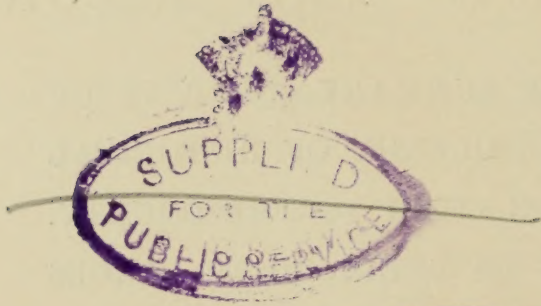
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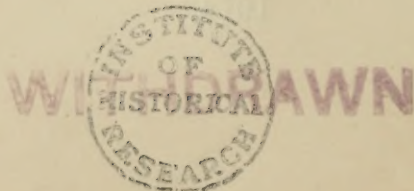
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## PREFACE.

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THIS Handbook to Kent Records was undertaken at the suggestion of the Committee of the RECORDS BRANCH of the K.A.S., in order to interest and help those of its Members who had not previously had experience in record searching. It has been my object to indicate as clearly and briefly as possible the nature of the materials with which the searcher has to deal, and some of the various places where they will be found. To many the attempt must seem inadequate, but it has been well said, "in matters that are essentially difficult every writer has to choose between the Scylla of severity and the Charybdis of unconscionable length." The Handbook does not make any claim to be perfect, or even self-sufficient, and for this reason the references in Part I. to standard works have been given. Similarly in Part II. references are given to works which contain fuller details of the records indicated. It has only been possible under the limitations of time and space to include those collections which are known to exist, and, in many cases, have been reported on by the various Commissions on Records. Many a small town may possess documents of interest of which no one guesses the existence; let it be the work of this Society to unearth them.

Many good friends have helped me in the task, and it is with much pleasure that I here record my indebtedness to them. Mr. HUBERT HALL, F.S.A., and Mr. E. G. ATKINSON, both Assistant Keepers of the Public Records, have been kind enough to read the early proofs and have given me



valuable information and criticism; the Rev. Canon G. M. LIVETT has seen the work in all its stages, and has throughout been most helpful with his advice and suggestions, especially in the section on Ecclesiastical Records.

My various informants and helpers in compiling Part II. are referred to there. Here I will only add how much I appreciate the trouble they have taken; my thanks are especially due to the Rev. C. JENKINS, Lambeth Librarian, for his section on the Archbishopal Library; to the Rev. Canon G. M. LIVETT for those on the Rochester Diocesan Registry, etc.; and to the Rev. C. EVELEIGH WOODRUFF for the accounts of the ecclesiastical and municipal archives of Canterbury. My father, too, has given me constant and able assistance.

IRENE J. CHURCHILL,

*Hon. Editor, Records Branch.*

SHORTLANDS.

*November, 1914.*



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## PART I.

## CORRIGENDA.

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Page 10, line 10 from bottom, for *solidos* read *solidorum*.

„ 52, „ 13 „ „ „ *legetima* read *legitima*.

„ 75, „ 7 „ „ „ *quarteriarum* read *quarteriorum*.

„ 76, „ 11 „ „ „ *nepur grant* read *nepurquant*.

„ 80, „ 9, for *inquirere* read *inquirendo*.

„ 97, „ 8, insert, A list of the Court Rolls is given in  
appendix to N. J. Hone's 'Manor and  
Manorial Records,' 1906.

„ 109, „ 5, for *N. T. Hone* read *N. J. Hone*.



# A Handbook to Kent Records.

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## INTRODUCTION.

ONE of the characteristics of the present age is the desire for accurate knowledge, not only in the exact sciences, but in every other branch of study to which it is in any way possible to apply a scientific method. Especially is this the case with regard to History. It has been said that this is an historical age, and, indeed, works that are called histories, but are not based on actual documentary evidence and contemporary sources, are no longer considered satisfactory. Nevertheless, the historian must possess the gift of imagination, since no progress in any science is possible without it; but he must also have at his command authentic details with which he can reconstruct for the present time a living image of the past. And those authentic details must be sought among heaps of discoloured, musty and seemingly illegible parchments, sadly neglected in the years gone by, but now at last appreciated at their true value, which are stored in the Public Record Office, in our great libraries and in private possession up and down the country. To dig and delve among these old documents, and to make known their contents, is a task which may make no widely popular appeal, but yet is one well worth doing, even though it bring no higher guerdon than the "footnote of gratitude," as Professor Maitland called it, "flung by the future historian, whose more valuable eyesight and time have been spared by these pioneer labours."

Still, many people nowadays doubtless feel a desire to

learn something of the history of the place they live in, be it town or village, or to trace the story of their own family, and from such beginnings of study they may easily be led on to take a wider and more general interest in the past.

Everyone is at heart an explorer, and in this domain there are vast stretches of country, dimly known, that may tempt him to penetrate their mysteries. Even in itself the study of old documents offers a fascinating and absorbing hobby to all who overcome the first difficulties of research.

There is much charm in making some musty old parchment, covered with its crabbed and often faded characters, yield up its secret, and oftentimes the discovery of a touch of unconscious humour enlivens the way. When, for instance, on a Court Roll, it is recorded of a delinquent tenant that he puts himself "*totaliter in misericordiâ domini*," or, in a deed of sale, of an evidently unwilling seller, that he accepts the price "*ex urgentissima necessitate meâ*;" or when a quaintness of phrasing or an obsolete use of some familiar word awakes interest—when, for example, the King in a State document commands the performance of some act "*which will be very well resented by us*"—in such cases we seem to feel a very human touch in the midst of even the most formal record.

A record, to the modern mind more especially, implies "the authentic report of the proceedings in any cause coming before a court of justice and entered upon the rolls of court." Historically this is not the first kind of record or document that has been handed down.

The reason for records is the need to have some attestation or testimony of a fact, or of an administrative act. In quite early times oral tradition sufficed; then, merely as an aid to memory, matters were written down and the record carefully kept, more as corroborative than as first-hand evidence. Gradually this written evidence grew in importance, then it was considered equal and finally superior to memory, for its life was generally longer than human life. The earliest records begin with charters, wills, and fragments of laws and chronicles, either contemporary or later



compilations, nearly all of which are now available in print and have, in most cases, been exhaustively commented on. Owing to the existence of special customs in Kent, which have had the force of law, a study of the early codes, or rather "sets of laws," as Professor Maitland terms them, is of more than usual interest to the Kentish historian. The various collections in which they occur are given in Part II. But there still exist in abundance unpublished records to illustrate every branch of history, from that of some intricate constitutional or political question to one more purely local, affecting a town or a parish or a family. The local records are not the least important: it has, indeed, been said that until more work has been done on local records the general historian is likely to go astray in his deductions. Before we can be sure of having life-like pictures of society in the different ages we need to know the details of the average man's daily life at those periods. The difficulty for the beginner is not in finding a subject for research, but in settling which of the many that will suggest themselves he will choose for his special attention. But before everything he must have some knowledge, however slight, of the materials available for his use. If he is desirous of working up the history of his own village or town, he will do well to make a beginning by studying any records that exist locally in the Parish Chest or elsewhere. His Parish Registers will supply him with much interesting information and assist him in making the first steps in reading old MSS. But he will soon discover that these records do not take him very far, and he will be advised to carry on his researches in the British Museum, the Public Record Office, or any other library that possesses MS. records. According to the special definition restated by the Royal Commission on Public Records, 1912, the word 'record,' in the sense of an account of some fact or event preserved in writing, includes all "rolls, records, writs, books, proceedings, decrees, bills, warrants, accounts, papers and documents whatsoever of a public nature belonging to the Crown." But this definition does not give the beginner a very clear idea of what he is

seeking; moreover, he may think, perhaps, that "public documents belonging to the Crown" are not a very promising field of research for his purpose: he has to realise how great is the variety of sources which he may tap for 'local' information. Supposing he goes at once to head-quarters, to the Public Record Office, he will be shewn the Official Guide,\* which gives a brief description of the contents of that repository. It is a book no searcher could dispense with, but it is not, nor was it meant to be, a beginner's book. Documents are naturally given there under their technical names, such as 'Chancery Proceedings,' 'Chancery Enrolments,' and so on. Before the excellence of that work can be appreciated the searcher must have some theoretical knowledge of the classification of documents, or they remain mere isolated groups and their relationship as members of one family will not be realised. And with regard to their contents, it is well that the searcher should have some acquaintance beforehand with *diplomatic formulæ*, that is, with the forms, more or less conventional and stereotyped, in which the various records are expressed. It seems, therefore, advisable as an Introduction to this Handbook, which is intended to serve as a guide to the records relating to Kent and existing in the various public repositories and in private possession, to give a slight outline of their most general forms and contents, so that the novice may have some foundation on which to build, for many of them deal with matters of 'local' interest. For more adequate and fuller treatment, *Studies in English Official Historical Documents* (1908), and *Formula Book of English Official Historical Documents*, Parts 1 and 2 (1908-9), by Mr. Hubert Hall, should be consulted.

We proceed, therefore, to make a brief survey of the main forms of documents valuable to the local historian, under the three chief headings of Official Documents, Ecclesiastical Records, and Municipal and Manorial Records.

\* *Guide to the Documents preserved in the P.R.O.* Scargill-Bird. 3rd Edition. 1908.



## A.—OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

## A. CHARTERS AND DIPLOMATIC INSTRUMENTS.

(i) *Anglo-Saxon Charters, Writs and Wills (pre-Conquest).*

There are three forms that stand out in the Anglo-Saxon period: the *Charter*, the *Writ* and the *Will*. Of these the Charter is the most elaborate. The early ones are almost entirely connected with the granting of land, chiefly to the Church but also to thegns. Royal Charters ascribed to an early date are often found embodied in monastic chartularies of a later period, either because land had been granted direct to the Church or because she had since acquired possession. Enrolments (*vide* p. 13) are found, at a later date also, when the old gift came up for confirmation, on the *Charter and Patent Rolls*. The Charter begins by reciting the King's titles, next comes an elaboration of the reason for the grant: "owing to the swift passage of time, etc." Then follows the actual grant of land with a minute description of the boundaries in Anglo-Saxon, though all the rest of the document be in Latin.

The next clause may contain the concession of certain privileges, but exemption from the '*Trimoda necessitas*,' bric-bot, burh-bot, fyrd-bot, the obligation of everyone to repair bridges, guard the burgh and take part in national defence, generally marks a forgery. The final clause often invokes some kind of curse on all who infringe or hinder the scope of the grant. Last of all there is the date and a list of witnesses.

\* ✚ Regnante in perpetuum domino nostro ihesu Christo omnia de summo cæli apice visibilia et invisibilia ordinabiliter gubernante presentesque vitæ semper curriculo cotidie decresciente ac nobis mortalibus temporalia gaza necnon et lucra possessionum inaniter fruentibus facescunt ac defluunt. Quapropter ego ÆPELSTANUS diuina mihi adridente gratia rex anglorum et curagulus totius bryttanniae aliquam partem terræ iuris mei perpetuali donatione libenter concedo cuidam fidei meo ministro nomine Ealdulfo xij mansas in illo loco cui ruricolæ appellatio usu ludibundisque vocabulis nomen indiderunt æt meapham quatinus ille bene perfruatur ac perpetualiter possideat quamdiu istius caducis sæculi

\* For translation of this and other documents see Appendix.

uitam tenere presumet. Et post sé cuiusque uoluerit eum corroborauimus perhenniter heredi derelinquat in aeternam hereditatem sit autem predictum rus liberum ab omni mundiali obstacu o cum omnibus ad sé rite pertinentibus, campis, pascuis, pratis, siluis. Exceptis istis tribus expeditione pontis arcisue constructione. Si quis autem quod non optamus hanc nostram definitionem elationis habitu incedens infringere temptauerit perpessus sit gelidis glaciærum flatibus et pennino exercitu malignorum spirituum, nisi prius inriguis pœnitentiæ gemitibus et pura emendatione emendauerit. Istis terminibus predicta terra circumgyrata esse uidetur. Dis synt þa land gemæro to meaphām on supan 7 on westeweard setl þoñ norþ fram setl to netles stede to þære hāne þonan norþ on gerilte andlang hrycges oþ hredles stede, etc., etc.

Acta est hæc prefata donatio Anno ab incarnatione domini nostri ihesu Christi d.cccc.xxxix Indictione xii.

✠ Ego Æpelstanus rex totius bryttaniæ prefatam donationem cum sigillo sancti crucis confirmaui. [Here follow other signatures.]

[Given in vol. 3, "*Facsimiles of Ancient Charters in the British Museum.*" Ed. E. A. Bond, 1873-8.]

The great difficulty that arises in connection with the Anglo-Saxon charters is that of forgery. No absolute test of validity that will cover all points has as yet been discovered, for in England in pre-Conquest times there is no hard and fast rule of composition such as there was at the same time on the Continent, where chanceries with notarial officers and definite and appropriate phrases for definite instruments already existed. But the fact that in those days the Church was the only learned body probably resulted in the actual charters being drawn up by clerks, and led to a certain similarity in the form they assumed.

The *Writ* appears about the time of Edward the Confessor. It is very precise, much shorter than the charter, and there seems to be less formality connected with it. It is also written entirely in the Old English language and characters. The subject may be the same as that of a charter, the granting of land, or it may be a precept, to some one in authority, to secure the peaceful possession to the grantee of a former grant.

It is possible that a seal was used for this instrument as a proof of its genuineness, while the greater formality attendant on the grant of a charter (evidenced by the numerous witnesses) did not require such an outward sign.



Eadweard cyngc gret ealle mine biscopas 7 mine eorlas 7 mine gerefan. 7 ealle mine pegenas on þam sciran þær Stigande arcebiscop 7 se hired æt Cristes cyrcean on Cantwara byrig habbað land inne freondlice. 7 ic cyððe eow þ̅ ic habbe him geunnan þ̅ hi beon heora saca 7 soene wurpe on strande 7 on streame, on wudan 7 on feldan, tolnes 7 teames, griþbrices 7 hamsoene, forestealles 7 infangenes þeoves, 7 flemena ferm þe ouer hera agene menn binnan burgan 7 butan, swa full 7 swa forþ swa mine agene wicneras hit secan scoldan. 7 ouer swa fela pegenas swa ic heom togelæten hæbbe. 7 ic nelle þ̅ æni man æni þing þær onteo\* butan hy 7 heora wicneras þe hi hit betæcan wyllaþ, for þan þingan þe ic habbe þas gerihta forgiuen minre sawle to ecere alysednesse, swa cnut cyng ar dyde. 7 ic nelle gepanian þ̅ æni man þis tobrece be mina freondscipe.

[Given in vol. 4, "*Facsimiles of Ancient Charters in the British Museum*," *op. cit.*]

The Anglo-Saxon *Will* is very similar to a contemporary charter, both as to its form and contents, and hardly calls for any comment: it is usually in Anglo-Saxon. All that are extant are available in print in the various collections of charters.

(ii) *Anglo-Norman Writs and Charters, and the later Mediæval Charters.*

The Norman Conquest brings with it no startling change in the form of documents. The writ, now generally made out in Latin, is still in use and is of great interest to the student of diplomatic, as the later diplomatic forms would appear to derive from it rather than from the verbose Anglo-Saxon charter. It is a form in use after the Conquest for all kinds of purposes. In one direction there is the missive writ, eventually developing into the Anglo-Norman and, later on, into the conventional charter, letters patent, etc.; and in another the general writ used for administrative and legal purposes.

Willelmus filius regis Willelmi, vicecomiti de Kent, salutem. Fac recognosci per homines hundredi de Middeltone quas consuetudines abbas sancti Augustini habere debet in villa de Newington, et quas olim habuit. Et tales fac ei habere sine mora et nominatim de isto auxilio, sicut olim habuit.

Teste episcopo Salesberiensi apud Westmonasterium.

\* Altered into "onfeo."

Henricus, rex Anglorum, Radulpho Roffensi episcopo, Salutem. Tene plenum rectum inter abbatem de sancto Augustino et inter archidiaconum de Cantuaria de sacerdotibus Abbatie sancti Augustini; ut abbas ita juste habeat consuetudines suas de presbyteris suis, sicut Scollandus abbas melius habuit.

Teste Haimone\* dapifero, apud Westmonasterium.

[Quoted in "*Historia Monasterii S. Augustini Cantuariensis*," by Thomas of Elmham, formerly Monk and treasurer of that foundation Edited, C. Hardwick, M.A., 1858. "*Chronicles and Memorials of Great Britain and Ireland*," pp. 356, 361.]

The main object of charters is still to grant out land, but with the growth of feudal ideas came an increase in the number of rights to be granted away. By multiplying these rights the king multiplied his revenue. His lords were eager to have the right of 'free warren'† or licence to preserve and kill game, and to 'crenellate' or fortify their dwellings: with the increase of trade merchants and burghers wished to hold a market or a fair. All these matters and many others could be made the subject of a grant, for due consideration. Besides rights there were duties incumbent on the king's subjects, and by payment of a sum of money it was possible to obtain exemption. Much land was still given to the Church, although by the laws of Edward I. there were growing restrictions on the granting away of land free from all secular duties. The rights acquired by a grant could again be the subject of a grant to a vassal; thus for the next few centuries charters, whether royal or private, rapidly increased in number. Again, in those uncertain times, it was often wisest on the accession of a new king to get the old grant confirmed. The formula was similar to that of the charter, but the words *dedisse et con-*

\* "Henrico" in British Museum MS.

† As is well known, large tracts of country were under a special forest jurisdiction, and anyone living within or on their borders would wish for exemption from some of the harshest restrictions. In Kent it is interesting to note that although a large tract of the county was actually a forest, namely, the district of the Weald, and tracts not definitely developed were considered as belonging to the Crown, there is no evidence that it was ever a private forest of the sovereign, and no forest laws have come down to us. For further information see *Furley, History of the Weald of Kent*; and chapter on *Forestry*, by Cox, in *Victoria County History of Kent*.



*cessisse* were either replaced by *confirmasse* or ran *dedisse, concessisse et hac carta mō confirmasse*.

The following examples have been selected as fairly representative of the development and form of charters from the Conquest to the close of the Middle Ages, when they are practically superseded by the *Letters Patent* and *Close* and the *State Papers*, which are dealt with later.

*Anglo Norman Charter, A.D. 1141.*

M. imperatrix Henrici regis filia et Anglorum domina Baronibus Justiciariis Vicecomitibus et ministris et omnibus fidelibus suis francis et anglis de Kent, Salutem. Sciatis me concessisse ecclesie Christi Lundoniensis et canonicis domino ibidem servientibus in elemosinam in perpetuum pro animabus patris et matris mee et pro salute anime mee Terram quam Picotus empastorator eis dedit in villa de Bekaham et. vij. solidatas terre quas Picotus emit de hominibus ejusdem ville et. viij. solidatas terre Æstmundi et terram de Claiherste cum omnibus rebus locis consuetudinibus et libertatibus ad easdem terras pertinentibus liberas et quietas ab omnibus rebus excepto servicio domini. Preterea concedo eis pasturam decem boum inter meos boves in plano et in bosco et. x. porcos sine pathnagio et super hoc prohibeo super forisfactum meum ne aliquis sit ausus hominibus vel rebus ad predictam ecclesiam pertinentibus aliquam injuriam vel contumeliam inferre quia nolo quod ecclesia jus suum vel libertatem in aliquo tempore meo perdat. Testimonio Rodberto comite de glo . . . ster Can . . . . ario.

[“*Publications of Pipe Roll Society*,” vol. x. *Ancient Charters prior to A.D. 1200*. Edited by J. H. Round. No. 25.]

*Conventional Charter, A.D. 1329.*

Rex archiepiscopis, episcopis, abbatibus, prioribus, comitibus, baronibus, justiciariis, forestariis, vicecomitibus, prepositis, ministris et omnibus ballivis & fidelibus suis, Salutem. Sciatis nos de gratia nostra speciali concessisse & hac carta nostra confirmasse dilecto clerico nostro Magistro Henrico de Clyf quod ipse & heredes sui imperpetuum habeant liberam warennam in omnibus dominicis terris suis de Beghenham in comitatu Kancie & de Groue in comitatu Notingham. Dum tamen terre ille non sint infra metas foreste nostre Ita quod nullus intret terras illas ad fugandum in eis vel ad aliquid capiendum quod ad warennam pertineat sine licencia & voluntate ipsius Henrici vel heredum suorum super forisfacturam nostram decem librarum Quare volumus et firmiter precipimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris quod predictus Henricus [*repetition of grant*] Dum tamen etc. [*as above*] sicut predictum est. Hiis testibus, etc. Data per manum nostram apud Cices-triam, xij die Julij.

[*Charter Roll*, No. 116, 3 Edward III., m. 16. *Calendar of Charter Rolls*, vol. iv., p. 121.]

*Confirmation by "Inspecimus." A.D. 1337.*

Rex archiepiscopis etc. Salutem. Inspecimus cartam celebris memorie domini Stephani dudum Regis Anglie progenitoris nostri in hec verba. Stephanus Rex Anglorum, etc. [*printed in "Historia Monasterii Sancti Augustini Cantuariensis, vol. ii., p. 384. Dugdale's "Monasticon," vol. iv., p. 573.*]. Inspecimus etiam cartam clare memorie domini Henrici quondam Regis Anglie progenitoris nostri in hec verba Henricus rex Anglorum & dux Normannorum & Aquitanorum & comes Andegavorum iusticiis & vicecomitibus & ministris & omnibus fidelibus suis Anglie, Salutem. Precipio quod homines monachorum de Faveresham de ipso manerio de Faveresham sint quieti de teloneo per totam Angliam ipsi & omnes res sue quas poterunt affidare suas esse proprias. Teste T. cancellario apud Silvestonum [A.D. 1155—58]. Inspecimus insuper quandam aliam cartam ejusdem progenitoris nostri in hec verba H. rex Anglorum & dux Normannorum & comes Andegavorum omnibus ballivis & ministris suis, Salutem. Sciatis me concessisse ecclesie & monachis de Faveresham quod ipsi habeant & percipiant regales pisces in piscariis de Sesaltre quas homines de Sesaltre de nobis tenent Quare precipio quod de cetero teneant piscarias illas de ipsis monachis, faciendo tamen iidem homines nobis & heredibus nostris consuetudines & servicia sua inde prius debita & consueta & predicti monachi reddent nobis & heredibus nostris ad manerium nostrum de Middilton viginti solidos per annum pro omnibus aliis serviciis suis & demandis, quos ipsi homines nobis reddere solebant. Teste T. cancellario apud Cantuarium [A.D. 1155—58] Nos autem donationem concessionem & preceptum predicta rata habentes & grata ea pro nobis & heredibus nostris quantum in nobis est dilecto nobis in Christo Iohanni nunc abbati de Faveresham & monachis ejusdem loci & eorum successoribus concedimus & confirmamus sicut carte predictae rationabiliter testantur & prout iidem abbas & monachi & predecessores sui dicta maneria cum pertinentiis hactenus tenuerunt & libertatibus predictis rationabiliter uti sunt & gauisi. Hiis testibus, etc. Data per manum nostram apud Turrim Londonie xv die Julij.

per finem xx solidos. Kanc.

[*Charter Rolls, No. 124, 11 Edward III., m. 11. Calendar of Charter Rolls, vol. iv., p. 424.*]

### (iii) *Letters Patent and Close.*

Besides the charter there are these two forms to consider : *Letters Patent* and *Letters Close*. The former are so called because they were sent open, or patent for all, to see, the usual address being: *Omnibus ad quos presentes litterae pervenerint*; the latter were addressed to an individual. From the reign of John and for the rest of the Middle Ages



*Letters Patent* became one of the chief means by which a great part of the public business was transacted. Later on, with the development of the various Departments of State, they no longer filled such an important position, but were used chiefly for grants of office, pensions, creations of nobility and letters of denization and invention. Finally, inventions were placed on a separate roll, and now the name of *Patent* seems used only in this connection. During the Middle Ages, however, the character of Letters Patent was multifarious. It has been said that while *Charters* were the instruments selected for use for the more solemn acts of the Crown, matters of a judicial or administrative nature were dealt with by *Letters Patent*, and where private instructions to an individual were necessary the form of the document would be that of the *Letters Close*. The following are some of the subjects dealt with by the Letters Patent, but it would be easy to give a still more varied list: Grants, whether by feoffment or lease, pensions, offices, liberties and privileges, confirmations of previous grants, commissions and appointments for various offices, as for collection of taxes, etc., licences for election of bishops and other ecclesiastical dignitaries, protections for travelling, safe conducts, pardons and licence to alienate land in mortmain.

Rex omnibus ad quos Littere presentes pervenerint, Salutem. Sciatis quod concessimus & licenciam dedimus, quantum in nobis est, dilecto nobis Iohanni Still de Sandewico quod ipse quoddam vas suum vocatum Nauell in portu ville Sandewici existens dare possit & concedere Iohanni Morice de Britannia apud la Rochell in partibus Francie commoranti in escambium pro quodam alio vase ipsius Iohannis Morice vocato Karicon in portu predicto similiter existente, aliquibus statutis, ordinacionibus, proclamationibus, inhibicionibus, seu mandatis incontrarium factis non obstantibus, dum tamen id absque dampno & prejudicio nostri & regni nostri Anglie fieri possit. In cujus rei testimonium has Litteras nostras fieri fecimus Patentes. Teste rege apud Westmonasterium octo die Ianuarii.

[*Patent Rolls*, No. 332, 14 *Richard II.* Part 2, m. 47 (*Calendar*, p. 355).]

Rex omnibus ad quos presentes Littere pervenerint, Salutem. Sciatis quod cum dilectus nobis in Christo, Prior Roffensis fecerit nobiscum in Cancellaria nostra quandam finem centum marcarum

pro licencia nostra appropriandi ecclesiam de Boxle sibi & successoribus suis imperpetuum habendam, de gratia nostra speciali perdonavimus eidem priori dictum finem centum marcarum, nolentes quod ipse vel successores sui aut domus predicta occasione dicti finis centum marcarum per nos vel heredes nostros seu ministros nostros quoscunque futuris temporibus impetantur, inquietentur, molescentur in aliquo seu graventur, set quod inde erga nos & heredes nostros quieti sint et penitus exonerati imperpetuum. In cujus rei testimonium has Litteras nostras fieri fecimus Patentes. Teste rege apud Westmonasterium xj die Maii.  
per breve de privato sigillo.

[*Patent Rolls*, No. 332, 14 *Richard II.* Part 2, m. 15 (*Calendar*, p. 410).]

*Letters Close* are very similar in form, and in both Letters Patent and Close the descent from the Anglo-Saxon writ is clearly visible. In Letters Close the address is as a rule to some individual, and the attestation clause differs from that of the Letters Patent, as the example given below shews. As to the contents, they are as varied as in the Letters Patent, and include orders concerning aids, subsidies, restitution of possession, assignment of dower, the domestic affairs of the Royal household, pardons, writs of summons for performance of some duty, and so on. The more modern series from Henry VIII. onwards includes deeds of bargain and sale, conveyances, recognizances, trust deeds relating to charities, certificates of naturalisation, etc.

Rex vicecomiti Kancie, Salutem. Quia volumus quod unum mercatum singulis septimanis per diem Iovis sit apud manerium nostrum de Middelton de comitatu predicto et una feria ibidem singulis annis per quatuor dies duratura, videlicet, in vigilia et in die sancte Margarete et per duos dies proxime sequentes, quod quidem manerium est in manu Isabelle, regine Anglie, consortis nostre carissime, tibi precipimus quod predicta mercatum et feriam in pleno comitatu tuo publice proclamari et teneri facias. Teste rege, apud Eboracum, xxiiij die Octobris.

[*Close Roll*, No. 137, 13 *Edward II.*, m. 10. (*Calendar*, p. 173).]

These four forms, the Charter, the Writ, Letters Patent and Letters Close, are really the only forms used by the mediæval Chancery. Later on the machinery of government which gave rise to the various records (*vide* p. 17) must be considered. For the moment it is enough to notice that



Chancery was at first mainly occupied with record making. From early times it kept office copies, as it were, of the documents issued. They were called enrolments and were entered on strips of parchment sewn end to end to form a long roll. Thus we have Charter Rolls, Rolls of Letters Patent and Letters Close,\* but besides these there were variations and offshoots which, although a form of Letters Patent and Close, were classified according to the subject; for instance, matters connected with trade were entered on the *Staple Rolls*, and so on.

The *Fine Rolls* are another very important class. They are in the form of both Letters Patent and Close, and take their name from the enrolment on them of fines or payments made to obtain certain writs, grants, licences, pardons, exoneration from knighthood or any other privilege connected with the King's favour. They are of exceptional importance both for historical and genealogical purposes.

Stephanus de Orlaston et Johanna uxor ejus dant unam marcam pro quodam brevi mortis antecessoris. Teste Rege, apud Thame, xxviii die Octobris.

Rex commisit dilecto et fideli suo Willelmo Moraunt Comitatum Kancie ac crastrum [*sic*] regis Cantuarie cum pertinentiis custodiendum a festo sancti Michaelis proxime futuro quamdiu regi placuerit, ita quod firmas debitas regi reddat annuatim ad scaccarium suum et de debitis regis et omnibus aliis ad officium vicecomitis comitatus predicti et custodiam castri illius spectantibus regi ad idem scaccarium respondeat prout alii vicecomites comitatus predicti et custodes castri illius hactenus reddere et inde respondere consueverunt. In cujus rei, etc. Teste rege, apud Westmonasterium, xxvj die Septembris.

per consilium.

Et mandatum est archiepiscopis, episcopis, abbatibus, prioribus, comitibus, baronibus, militibus et omnibus aliis de Comitatu Kancie quod eidem Willelmo tanquam vicecomiti regis comitatus predicti et custodi castri illius in omnibus que ad custodiam illam pertinent intendentes sint et respondentes. In cujus, etc. Teste, ut supra.

per consilium.

Et mandatum est Thome de Brokhull quod eidem Willelmo comitatum predictum una cum rotulis, brevibus, memorandis et

\* For extent of Chancery enrolments see Scargill-Bird, *op. cit.*

omnibus aliis officium illud tangentibus necnon castrum predictum una cum armaturis, victualibus et omnibus aliis rebus Regi in eodem castro existentibus que sunt in custodia sua per indenturam inde inter ipsum Thomam et predictum Willelmum conficiendam liberet custodiendo in forma predicta. Teste ut supra.

per consilium.

[*Fine Roll*, No. 137, 11 *Edward III.*, m. 4 & 15.]

(iv) *Instruments under the Smaller Seals.\**

Charters, Letters Patent, etc., were validated by the Great Seal. Gradually other seals came into existence. At first a different seal was only used as an expedient in case of emergency. The King had not his Great Seal with him, so he used his Consort's seal, or his Justiciar's, or his Privy Seal. Then little by little two distinct uses were made of the Privy Seal. It was affixed to documents addressed to the Chancellor or one of the King's officers connected with personal or administrative matters, which were known as *Writs* or *Letters Missive*.† Or the Privy Seal (or the Signet when it came into existence) was used on instruments whose object was to obtain some document under the Great Seal, and these were known as *Warrants for Issue*. These seals were not used haphazard, but a definite formality arose in connection with them. There was a Keeper of the Great Seal, a Keeper of the Privy Seal, and a Keeper of the Signet; and the process of procuring the Great Seal was much lengthened. Thus if some instrument under the Great Seal were required, there must first be a petition to the King or his Chancellor for the issue of a *Sign Manual Warrant*, which procured the Signet. This in turn directed the Privy Seal to require the Great Seal to prepare a document in the form desired to pass under the Great Seal. Each instrument contained the same instructions as to the contents required, so that the information found in them is merely identical with that to be obtained from the Chancery enrolments. While the series of warrants for issue are useful to fill in some gap on the

\* E. Déprez. *Etudes de Diplomatique Anglaise*, Paris, 1908.

† In time these Privy Seals became the typical instrument of the King's Council.



enrolments, it does not follow that they are an essential source for the local historian to consult.

The documents of this section will be found either in Latin, French or English.

*Missive Letter.*

Edward, par la grace de Dieu. Roi d'Engleterre, Seignur d'Irlande et dues d'Aquitaine. Al onerable pierre en Dieu [par la meisme grace] I. Evesque de Norwyz, nostre Chaunceller. Saluz. Nous vous enueoms cy dedeinz enclosé une bille qe [nous feust baille par] William de Couentre touchaunte une mine qest troice a Reculture en comitez de Kent [ ] mandons qe veue la dite bille et escotee la monstraunce qe le dit William en voudra faire plus [ ] appelez a vous ceux de nostre conseil deuers vous et en eiez plener auisement et facez ce qe verr [ez qe melz soit a nostre] profit. Donne souz nostre priue seal a Canterbur', le vj. jour de Marz l'an de nostre regne xiiij.

[*Chancery Warrants for Issue, Series I. Privy Seal, File 110, No. 5219. 13 Edward II.*]

*Privy Seal Writ.*

Edwardus, Dei gratia, Rex Anglie, Dominus Hibernie et Dux Aquitanie, venerabili in Christo patri I. eadem gratia Norwycensi episcopo, Cancellario nostro, Salutem. Cum ad requisicionem dilecti et fidelis nostri B. de Badelesmere, senescalli hospicii nostri, concesserimus et licenciam dederimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris quantum in nobis est dilectis nobis in Christo. priori et conventui de Ledes quod ipsi ecclesiam de Cherte juxta Ledes, Cantuariensi diocese que est de advocatione sua propria ut dicitur appropriare et in proprios usus tenere possint sibi et successoribus suis imperpetuum statuto de terris et tenementis ad manum mortuam non ponendis edito non obstante. Vobis mandamus quod eisdem priori et conventui litteras sub magno sigillo nostro de concessione et licencia nostris hujusmodi in forma debita habere faciatis. Data sub privato sigillo nostro apud Roffam xxj die Martii, anno regni nostri tercio decimo.

[*Chancery Warrants for Issue, Series I. Privy Seal, File 110, No. 5244. 13 Edward II.*]

Letters Patent granted and enrolled 21st March, *vide* Calendar of Patent Rolls, Edward II., 1317—21, p. 433.

*Signet.*

Saluz et bon amitie pource qe par la grant besoigne qe nous avoys des neefs il nous convient prouare a plus pres qe nous pooms nous voloms qe vous facez somoier par lettres de nostre grant seal a Shorham, Hethe, Folxston, Remeneye, Mergate, Sondwyche, Orford, Jermuth, Blakeneye et toutes partes ailleurs ou nuls personers ou doggers sont qe chivaux poont porter, dequelle seignorie qils sont, et toutes excusacions lessez qils soient a nous en lieu ou



nous eskyperoms a iour qe autres neefs sont assignes de y estre et solonc ce qe nostre cher vallet Nichol Pyks vous dira plus a plain de bouche de par nous. Donne souz nostre secre seal a Wade-stokes le xiiij jour de Septembre l'an de nostre regne unizisme.

[*Chancery Warrants for Issue, Series I. Signets. 11 Edward III. File 1330, No. 34.*]

(v) *State Papers.*

There is one other great class of documents which remain to be considered: the *State Papers*. The administrative side of Chancery has been noticed; in process of time this became more emphasized, and it is noticeable that much of the business formerly done by the Council, in which the Lord Chancellor's work was that of a modern Secretary of State, passed into the hands of the King's Secretary. By the time of Henry VIII. the King's Principal Secretary had become a person of importance with a recognised position, and the business of his office had increased so much that he required help; hence there was a second and a third Principal Secretary. Each secretary, till he had his separate office, kept his own papers distinct from those of Chancery; and in 1578 the State Paper Office was established with a Clerk of the Papers, so that the official documents and papers should not remain in the custody of the various secretaries when they vacated office. As a matter of fact, a great number of State Papers were retained by the secretaries and are now found in private collections, as well as in those in the British Museum.

Closely connected with these records are those of the Public Departments which emerged through the separation under distinct officers of the different functions exercised by the Secretaries of State: the Home Office, Foreign Office, Admiralty, War Office, and the other modern departments, including the Treasury, an offshoot of the Exchequer.

As to the information and kind of documents to be found among the State Papers, it is a well-known fact that *anything* may turn up in them. They are now classified under Foreign, Colonial and Domestic, but it is with the last only that this *Introduction* is concerned. They contain a number of drafts and copies of diplomatic instruments: charters, also leases

and indentures, which take the place of the mediæval grant of Crown lands. The letter form is much used and also there is a great development in the *Warrant*, reaching its climax in the *Departmental Warrant*. In construction this differs in no essential point from the Royal Warrant, the chief distinguishing clause, "and for so doing this shall be your warrant" or variants thereof, being common to both. The very familiar modern records of *Orders* and *Minutes* are also found.

Besides such records, which are characteristic of the State Papers, there are many documents which in the mediæval period would have belonged to the Chancery or the Exchequer: licences to pass the sea, inquisitions, surveys, accounts, etc. Departmental Records are composed chiefly of Letters, Warrants and Minutes. Matters relating to Kent will be found scattered throughout the departments, but the Treasury Papers are perhaps the most valuable for topographical purposes. These are available by means of a calendar; and the same holds good for the State Papers Domestic.

## B. MINISTERIAL RECORDS.

Although the chief object of this *Introduction* is to sketch the form of the various kinds of documents likely to be of use to the local historian, yet this cannot be done without reference, however slight, to the administration which gave rise to them. Such an outline seems appropriate for insertion here, at the beginning of the section which proposes to deal with Ministerial Proceedings.

Government under the Saxon kings, and even in early Norman times, was a comparatively simple matter; it was personal rather than national. It is among the members of the King's household that the origin of the later State officers may be traced. It was they who formed the *Curia Regis*, which, with the King at its head, collected the revenue (at first chiefly in kind), issued laws, administered justice, and made the various grants of lands and privileges. With the growing complexity of government under the Angevin



and later kings a gradual differentiation of function became apparent, and although the various services were probably at first rendered by the same men, the names given them vary: thus when dealing with fiscal matters they were known as Barons of the Exchequer, while in their judicial capacity they were still the Curia Regis. But by the time of Edward I. law had become more of a profession, and there emerge separate branches known severally as the King's Bench, the Common Pleas and the Itinerant Justices.

For the administrative side we turn to the Chancery, presided over by the Lord Chancellor. As has been seen in Section A (iii and v), it was the Chancery that was responsible for the documents there described. But its activities did not end here. The various divisions of the Curia Regis must not be thought of as being like watertight compartments, absolutely cut off from each other: there was always much intercommunication and overlapping. The Chancery was chiefly responsible for record making, but in the case of charters, etc., when the grant affected the King's revenue, an estreat (or copy) would be sent into the Exchequer (*Originalia Rolls*). Again, all original writs, whether for judicial or administrative purposes, issued from Chancery, and with few exceptions the returns were made there as well, duplicates if necessary being sent into the Exchequer. The fines and other proceeds of Justice were in like manner estreated and sent to the Exchequer Officers.

This section will deal with three main classes of documents of which (i) and (ii) are chiefly in the Chancery and (iii) in the Exchequer; yet the relation between them is remarkably close.

(i) *Royal Inquisitions, Surveys and Assessments.*

Documents whose main object was to grant something or merely to record a grant have already been dealt with. It now remains to consider those whose primary object was to institute an enquiry which might or might not result in a grant (compare Inquisitions *ad quod damnum*). The general form of the writ issued by the Chancery was very similar to



that described above (p. 7): *H. Rex* (or simply *Rex*) *Vicecomiti* (or some other officer), *Salutem. Vobis mandamus* or *praecipimus tibi* (here follows the injunction), concluding with *Teste*, etc. Its similarity to the Letters Patent and Close is also obvious, but whereas Letters Patent or Close are the final documents in a series, a writ of this nature was the opening member, and required for its completion what is technically known as a *Return*. Practically it was the pivot on which the whole administrative machinery turned; Writs and Returns have been described as Diplomatic questions and answers. The question is put according to a certain definite formula: the Sheriff may be commanded to enquire into some matter by means of the verdict or recognition of honest and lawful men of the county, for instance as to the extent or value of some manor. The Return will begin by quoting, almost verbatim, from the Writ, and the required information will follow on. Thus if either the Writ or the Return is in places undecipherable the one will generally elucidate the other.\* This machinery was used for very different kinds of enquiries and the bulk and contents of the returns vary accordingly. Broadly speaking it may be said that the ultimate object of all was fiscal, that is, connected with the King's Exchequer, although in some this is less apparent than in others. It is therefore possible to consider them under the headings: Agrarian, Feudal, Fiscal.

#### *a. Agrarian.*

Under *Agrarian* may be grouped all the various inquiries taken at different times of manors and lands in the King's hand, whether by escheat, that is, owing to failure of direct heirs, or by forfeiture through felony or outlawry, or through Church lands coming temporarily into his possession during the voidance of a Bishopric or an Abbacy. These inquiries or surveys contain a description of the lands and tenements, the number of acres of arable and pasture

\* The Writ will usually be found on one or other of the Chancery enrolments, or the original may be filed with the Return.

land, the number and kind of live stock, the quantity of grain, the implements, etc., with their value.

An extent or valuation of the possessions of the Priory of Christchurch, Canterbury, and also of the Stock, etc., when taken into the custody of Robert de Thornham.

Inquisicio facta Prioratus Cantuarie, per preceptum domini Regis, coram Gydone de Chancell[aria] et Simone de Nuers, die Iovis proxima post clausum Pasche, anno regni domini Iohannis Regis xij<sup>o</sup>; quid et quantum Robertus de Thurnham recepit de instauro per predictum Prioratum, quando recepit custodiam, post obitum Reginaldi de Cornhulla, scilicet ad festum Sancti Michaelis ejusdem anni; et quid et quantum inventum sit in predicto Prioratu ad predictam inquisitionem predicti diei Iovis.

HOLLINGEBURNE.—Gocelinus de Ediarindene, capitalis serviens, Gilebertus de Uppedon, Hamo de Hollingeburne, Walterus de Hollingeburne, Willelmus de Ripple, prepositi. Galfridus filius Roberti, Sanson de Luninton, Gilbertus de Greviewey, Reginaldus filius pagani, juratores, dicunt quod habetur in eadem villa de redditu assiso per annum xxvij*li.* ijs. *xd.* iij quadrantes ad iij terminos anni. Et *xls.* de dono annuo. Et [?] estikes anguillarum ad mediam quadragesime. Et iij biketos mellis de viij galonis ad Nativitatem Sancte Marie. Et iij carros ad festum Sancti Iohannis. Et iij paria rotarum ad carros ad Natale. Et xvj vomeres per annum. Et ij multones in autumpno & v oves matrices & v agnos ad Pascha. Et centum gallinas ad Natale & m ova ad Pascha. Et vj tons ferri. Et dicunt quod Robertus de Thurnham invenit ibidem de blado xvj summas frumenti et sexdecim summas ordeï et xxxij summas avene de grangiis et xij summas mestilionis de exitu molendini infra predictum terminum. Et custodes manerii receperunt de bosco vendito infra predictum terminum iij*li.* vjs. De utensilibus i patellam & ij bacinas. Et ij cultros & ij tripedes. Et iij tunellos. Iidem dicunt quod hic inventa sunt ibidem die Iovis proxima post Hokedai v oves matrices et v agnos, xxiii<sup>or</sup> acre seminate cum frumento de dominico blado & i aera ad medietatem. Et iij acre de viscis ad terciam garbam cum xvj acris cum avena ad terciam garbam & utensilia predicta.

[*Exchequer K.R. Ancient Extents. No. 46.*]

This is the simplest form, and as will be seen it will not take much to convert it into an actual assessment for payment of a tax or due to the King, for in granting out the land again or on restoring it to the Church the King will exact, as it were, a percentage on the value.



### β. *Feudal.*

*Feudal inquisitions* will include all those relating to the feudal services. As is well known the main principle of Feudalism, as it developed in England after the Conquest, was that all land, together with the rights over it, belonged to the King. Land and rights he could grant out on practically any terms he chose, as may be seen from the charters. The land was granted out to be held by certain services: the tenure was *military* if the grantee had to follow the King to his wars and provide so many knights as well; it was *serjeanty* if he had to perform some personal service for the King. Those holding immediately of the King were the tenants in chief (though tenure *in capite* frequently refers to others than the King). On the death of one of such tenants the heir paid a sum of money, known as *Relief*, before entering into possession. If he were under age the King was his guardian with right to manage the estate; if there were no heir the land escheated to the King; it could also be forfeited for felony. The daughters of a deceased tenant in chief would also be in the King's custody until they married, and even during their father's lifetime they could not marry without the King's consent. The King claimed also from his tenants certain sums (*Feudal Aids*) on the knighting of his eldest son, on the marriage of his eldest daughter, or for his ransom should he be taken prisoner. Many of these rights the tenants in chief likewise possessed over their vassals.

Naturally some machinery was required to enforce these rights, and so the various kinds of feudal inquisitions gradually developed, at first under the direction of the Sheriffs, but later under that of special officers, known as Escheators, appointed in each county.

To this class belong the great series of Inquisitions *Post Mortem*. The procedure in its final development was as follows. Whenever a supposed tenant in chief died the Escheator of the county, either *virtute officii* or by a writ out of Chancery known as *diem clausit extremum*, summoned a jury to enquire upon oath what lands and possessions the



tenant was 'seized of' (or possessed) at the time of his death, of whom he held them and by what tenure, their values, and the name and age of the next heir. The return was made into the Chancery and the King was thus in possession of all information as to the rights accruing to him. Connected with these inquiries are the following, the names of which explain themselves: Proofs of age, On taking the veil, Assignment of dower, Partitions among heirs, Alleged idiocy of heirs, etc.

*Inquisitio Post Mortem.*

(A) *Writ.*

Henricus, Dei gratia rex Anglie et Francie et dominus Hibernie escaetori suo in comitatu Kancie, Salutem. Quia Robertus Arnold qui de nobis tenuit in capite, diem clausit extremum, ut accepimus, tibi precipimus quod omnia terras et tenementa de quibus idem R. fuit seisisus in dominico suo ut de feodo in balliva tua die quo obiit sine dilatione capias in manum nostram et ea salvo custodiri facias donec aliud inde preceperimus; et per sacramentum proborum et legalium hominum de dicta balliva tua per quos rei veritas melius sciri poterit, diligenter inquiras quantum terrarum et tenementorum idem R. tenuit de nobis in capite tam in dominico quam in servicio in eadem balliva tua dicto die quo obiit, et quantum de aliis et per quod servitium et quantum terre et tenementa illa valeant per annum in omnibus exitibus et quo die idem R. obiit, et quis propinquior heres ejus sit, et cujus etatis. Et inquisitionem inde distincte et aperte factam nobis in cancellariam nostram sub sigillo tuo et sigillis eorum per quos facta fuit sine dilatione mittas et hoc breve.

Teste me ipso, apud Westmonasterium, ix die Maii, Anno regni nostri quinto.

(B) *Return.*

*Liberatum fuit Curie vij die Maii, anno subscripto per manus Escaetoris.*

Inquisitio indentata capta apud Rochester die Veneris, videlicet vicesimo nono die Aprilis anno regni regis Henrici septimi sexto, coram Willelmo Michell, escaetore domini regis in comitatu predicto virtute brevis domini regis de diem clausit extremum eidem Escaetori directi et huic inquisitioni consuti per sacramentum Iohannis William, Thome Grygge, Willelmi Mauncer, Thome Ryche, Iohannis Byssset, Henrici Megge, Thome Pooke, Willelmi Pery, Iohannis Cardon, Rogeri Lorkyn, Everardi Stoneard', Michaelis Wellys et Roberti Mauncer, qui dicunt super sacra-

mentum suum quod Robertus Arnold, nuper de Gyllyngham in comitatu predicto, gentilman. in dicto brevi nominatus, fuit seisis die quo obiit in dominico suo ut de feodo de et in duobus mesuagiis, duobus gardinis, duobus columbariis, quatercentis acris terre, ducentis acris pasture, trescentis acris marisci, quadraginta acris bosci cum pertinentiis in Gyllyngham, Hoo, Frendesbury, Stoke, Chatham, Wade, Upchurch, Halstoo, Reynham, Neventon, Hertlep et Stokbury cum pertinentiis in comitatu predicto et dicunt quod predicta duo mesuagia, duo gardina, duo columbaria, trescentes octoginta acre terre, centum sexaginta et duodecim acre pasture, trescentes acre marisci, quadraginta acre bosci cum pertinentiis in Gyllyngham, Hoo, Frendesbury, Stoke, Chatham, Wade, Neventon, Hertlep et Stokbury cum pertinentiis tenentur de Iohanne archiepiscopo Cantuariensi ut in jure ecclesie sue, sed per que servicia juratores predicti penitus ignorant. Et quod predictae octo acre terre et quatuor acre pasture cum pertinentiis in Reynham tenentur de Iohanne Broke, milite, domino de Cobham, sed per que servicia juratores predicti penitus ignorant. Et quod predictae duodecim acre terre, octo acre pasture cum pertinentiis in Reynham tenentur de Iohanne abbate Beate Marie de Graciis juxta London, ut in jure ecclesie sue, sed per que servicia juratores predicti penitus ignorant. Et quod predicti sexdecim acre pasture in Reynham cum pertinentiis tenentur de Willelmo magistro hospitalis sancte Katerine juxta Turrim Londonie, ut in jure ecclesie sue, sed per que servicia juratores predicti penitus ignorant. Et dicunt quod predicta mesuagia, gardina, columbaria, terre, pasture, marisci, et bosci, cum pertinentiis valent per annum in omnibus exitibus ultra reprisas quadraginta marcas et non ultra. Et ulterius dicunt quod predictus R. A. die quo obiit non tenuit ad eorum cognicionem aliqua alia terras seu tenementa in comitatu predicto in dominico nec in servicio, et quod predictus R. A. obiit octavo die Maii ultimo preterito. Et dicunt quod Henricus Arnold est ejus filius et heres propinquior, et est etatis triginta trium annorum et amplius. In cujus rei testimonium tam predictus escaetor quam juratores supradicti huic inquisitioni indentate sigilla sua alternatim apposuerunt. Data die et anno supradictis.

[*Inquisitions P.M. Chancery, Series II., vol. 6. No. 16, pp. 8, 9. Calendar, p. 248.*]

Another series is formed by the Inquisitions *ad quod damnum*. The writ was addressed to the Escheator, commanding him to find out by means of a jury, whether a proposed grant of a market or fair or any other right, or alienation of certain lands to the Church, was injurious to the King or any of his subjects, and if so, to what extent. The originating writ is similar in form to that given in the



previous example, and its clauses may be gathered from the return quoted below.

Inquisitio capta coram Thoma de Brokhelle, vicecomite Kancie, apud Cantuariam die Lune proxima ante festum Annunciationis Beate Marie Virginis, anno regni regis Edwardi tertii a conquestu. undecimo, virtute brevis domini regis eidem vicecomiti directi, per sacramentum Henrici de Bradelonde, Rogeri de Garewyntone, Ricardi de Helles, Ricardi de Beracre, Iohannis de Bradelonde, Simonis [ ]ltwellere, Iohannis Vysage, Warini le Cat', Ricardi de Bourne, Iohannis de Chesteuylle, Ade Scot de Stureye et Willelmi de Goldewelle qui dicunt quod non est ad dampnum nec prejudicium domini regis nec heredum suorum nec aliorum quorumcunque licet dominus rex concedat civibus suis civitatis Cantuarie quod ipsi et eorum heredes et successores assisam panis et servisie, custodiam et assaiam mensurarum et ponderum ac omnia alia ad officium mercati pertinentia in dicta civitate et suburbis ejusdem habeant et exerceant inperpetuum et transgressores dicte assise panis et cervisie modo debito puniant ac defectus mensurarum et ponderum ac aliorum ad dictum officium mercati pertinentium corrigant et emendant. Ita quod clericus de mercato seu aliquis ministrorum domini regis seu heredum suorum dictam civitatem Cantuarie aut suburbia ejusdem non ingrediatur ad aliqua que ad officium mercati pertinent in eisdem facienda vel exequenda dum tamen si aliquis defectus in cognitione seu assaia predictis in presencia domini regis infra civitatem et suburbia predicta inveniri contigerit, quod tunc cancellarius domini regis vel heredum suorum qui pro tempore fuerit, ballivos dicte civitatis coram se infra civitatem predictam seu suburbia ejusdem venire et defectus hujusmodi ibidem per se vel per alios quos ad hoc deputaverit corrigi et emendari faciat. Dicunt etiam quod hujusmodi cognicio et assaia ac fines et amerciamenta inde proveniencia prefatis civibus civitatis Cantuarie valere possunt per annum in omnibus exitibus et aisiamentis juxta verum valorem eorundem viginti solidos sterlingorum. In cujus rei testimonium predicti juratores huic inquisitioni sigilla sua apposuerunt die et anno predictis.

[*Inquisitions "ad quod damnum."* Chancery, File 241. No. 19.]

Other inquisitions from which useful local information may be gleaned are those dealing with 'Distrain of Knighthood.' By the Statute of 21 Edward I. everyone having lands to the value of £40 was to take up knighthood with its accompanying duties. This was a burden many wished to escape, hence the need for an inquiry into the number of such shirkers and the extent of their possessions; for if they could not be persuaded to take upon themselves



the honour they were entitled to, they could at least be forced to buy exemption at the price of a good round sum, which would be a welcome addition to the King's Exchequer.

### γ. *Fiscal.*

Both of the preceding classes of inquisitions, it will have been seen, affected the King's Exchequer sooner or later, but in the class of *fiscal* assessments the connection with the Exchequer is of paramount importance. In many cases the same information is given as to the extent of lands and the names of those holding them,\* but the one thing that marks them off definitely from the agrarian and feudal surveys is, if it may be so called, their wholesale nature. It is no longer a question of the valuation of a few isolated manors on the tenants' death, but the whole county and whole classes of subjects are assessed at a particular time to give an extraordinary contribution towards the King's needs. Among such records are classed Domesday Book and the well known Hidage and Carucage assessments of the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Then from the thirteenth century onwards there are the Parliamentary grants on property known as *Subsidies*, which in one sense are original accounts.

A return made by Sir Percivall Hart, knight; Sir William Damsell, knight; Thomas Walsingham and Raffe Bosevile, esquiers, Commissioners of Kent for the taxing, cessing and levying of the first payment of the subsidy granted in the thirteenth year of Queen Elizabeth and allotted to the hundreds of Axton, Rochester, Blackheath, Bromley and Beckenham, Litle and Lesenes and the villey of Dartford cum Wilmington, part of the lathe of Sutton at Hone, etc.

The hundreds of Bromley and Beckenham.

#### Bromley.

Thomas Pope, in goods	xx <sup>li</sup>	xxxiijs iij <sup>d</sup>
William Shott, in goods	vij <sup>li</sup>	xij <sup>s</sup> iij <sup>d</sup>
Ihon Mylls, in goods	xij <sup>li</sup>	xx <sup>s</sup>
Ihon Allyn, in goods	x <sup>li</sup>	xvj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>

\* A very good example is printed in full in *Archæologia Cantiana*, vol. ix., from Lay Subsidies, Kent, 29 Edward I., 123-4.

Thomas Colegate, in goods . . . .	vij <sup>li</sup>	xj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
Symon Lowe, esquier, in land . . . .	lxxx <sup>li</sup>	x <sup>li</sup> xij <sup>s</sup> iij <sup>d</sup>
Thomas Vallance, gent., in land . . . .	vj <sup>li</sup>	xvj <sup>s</sup>
Widow Draper, in land . . . .	x <sup>li</sup>	xxvj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
Widow Harvyst, in goods . . . .	x <sup>li</sup>	xvj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
William Ritchbell, in goods . . . .	xxxv <sup>li</sup>	lvij <sup>s</sup> iij <sup>d</sup>
Laurence Manley, gent., in fee . . . .	xvij <sup>li</sup>	xlviij <sup>s</sup>
Richard Hasseld, in fee . . . .	xvij <sup>li</sup>	xlviij <sup>s</sup>
Thomas Best, in goods . . . .	x <sup>li</sup>	xvj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
Ihon Erledy, in land . . . .	x <sup>li</sup>	v <sup>s</sup> iij <sup>d</sup>
Ihon Momford, in goodes . . . .	ij <sup>li</sup>	v <sup>s</sup>
Thomas Pancresse, in goods . . . .	v <sup>li</sup>	vij <sup>s</sup> iij <sup>d</sup>
Ihon Halfepeny, in goods . . . .	v <sup>li</sup>	vij <sup>s</sup> iij <sup>d</sup>
Ihon Wyborne, in landes . . . .	iv <sup>li</sup>	x <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
etc. etc.		

Some hujus ville xxxix<sup>li</sup> xv<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>

#### Beckenham.

Arnold King, in land . . . .	ix <sup>li</sup>	xxiiij <sup>s</sup>
Thomas Kempysall, in land . . . .	ij <sup>li</sup>	vij <sup>s</sup>
Thomas Wood, in goods . . . .	v <sup>li</sup>	vij <sup>s</sup> iij <sup>d</sup>
William Curteis, in goods . . . .	vj <sup>li</sup>	x <sup>s</sup>
*Sir William Damsell, knyght, one of the Commissioners, in land . . . .	ic <sup>li</sup>	xiiij <sup>li</sup> vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
*Edmond Style, esquier, in land . . . .	xx <sup>li</sup>	liij <sup>s</sup> iij <sup>d</sup>
etc. etc.		

Some hujus ville xxvj<sup>li</sup> ij<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>

Some hujus hundredi lxx<sup>li</sup> xix<sup>s</sup> iij<sup>d</sup>

Petty Collectours: Edward Ihonson.

Arnold Kinge.

[*Lay Subsidies, Kent.* 126/419. 13 *Elizabeth.*]

Taxation of classes of persons is illustrated by the various ecclesiastical surveys, of which the *Clerical Subsidies*, *Nonae Rolls* and *Valor Ecclesiasticus* are the best known.

The last named, which was edited by J. Hunter in six folio volumes for the Record Commission in 1834, is a complete survey of all Benefices in England and Wales on the eve of the Reformation. It was taken on oath, and all ecclesiastical preferments and all kinds of property belonging to any Benefice or Dignity were within the scope of the enquiry. From it may be learned what churches were of ancient foundation, and it has also great importance for the topographical description of any part of the country. Some portions have been lost, but supple-

\* In the margin: "oneretur."



mentary texts have been discovered lately in the Bodleian by Mr. F. Madan: happily those relating to Canterbury and Kent are complete.

(ii) *Certificates.*

These form a class of semi-official documents very miscellaneous in character, yet in form similar to a return. Perhaps the most familiar series is that connected with proceedings under the Statute of the Staple (27 Ed. III.), that is, the certificates reporting the way in which debtors either met or failed to meet their recognizances.

Henricus octavus, Dei gratia Anglie et Francie rex, fidei defensor et dominus Hibernie, vicecomiti Kancie, Salutem. Cum Stephanus Nasshe de Yalding in comitatu tuo, clothier, vicesimo sexto die Novembris anno regni nostri sexto decimo, coram Jacobo Yarford, milite, tunc majore stapule Westmonasterii ad recognicionem debitorum in eadem stapula accipiendas deputato recognoverit se debere Henrico Huntley de Haddam in comitatu Bukinghamie, mercatori, triginta et quinque libras sterlingorum quas ei solvisse debuisset quarto die Februarii tunc proxime futuro et eas ei nondum solvit, ut dicebatur, per breve nostrum tibi nuper precepimus quod corpus predicti Stephani si laicus esset capi et in prisiona nostra donec eidem Henrico de debito predicto plene satisfecisset salvo custodiri et omnia terras et catalla ipsius Stephani in balliva tua per sacramentum proborum et legalium hominum de eadem balliva tua per quos rei veritas melius sciri potuisset juxta verum valorem eorundem diligenter extendi et appreciari et in manum nostram seisiri facias ut ea prefato Henrico quousque sibi de debito predicto plene satisfecisset liberari faciamus juxta formam ordinacionis inde facte. Et qualiter dictum preceptum nostrum foris executus scire faceres nobis in cancellariam nostram ad terciam diem jam preteritam ubicunque tunc foret per litteras tuas sigillatas. Et quod haberes ibi tunc breve predictum. Ac tu nobis in Cancellariam nostram predictam retinueris, quod S. N. . . . die recognicionis debiti . . . fuit seisitus . . . de et in uno mesuagio, etc., in Yaldyng. Que quidem mesuagium, etc., in omnibus exitibus ultra reprises ad quinque libras, tresdecim solidos et quatuor denarios extenduntur per annum, et ea omnia et singula in manus nostras seisiri fecisti . . . , quodque dictus S. N. die recognicionis predictae nec unquam postea non habuit aliqua alia terras, etc., in comitatu predicto, que aliquo modo extendi, appreciari aut in manus nostras seisiri possunt, nec fuit inventus in eodem, tibi precipimus quod eidem H. H. mesuagium, etc., si ea per extentam predictam recipere voluerit liberes, habenda sibi et assignatis suis ut liberum tenementum suum quousque sibi de debito predicto unacum dampnis, misis et expensis suis, que in hac parte rationabiliter sustinuit plenarie fuerit satisfactus. Et nichilominus corpus predicti S. . . . salvo custodiri



facias in forma predicta. Et qualiter hoc preceptum nostrum fueris executus seire facias nobis . . . in quindena sancti Martini proxime futura . . . Et habeas ibi hoc breve. Teste me ipso apud Westmonasterium xxiiij die Octobris. anno regni nostri vicesimo quarto. Tayler.

*Endorsed.*

Domino regi in cancellaria sua certifico quod virtute istius brevis quintadecimo die Novembris, anno infrascripto, liberari feci infranominato H. H. mesuagium, terras et tenementa infrascripta cum pertinentiis per extentam infrascriptam, quinque libras, tresdecim solidos et quatuor denarios, in executionem infrascriptarum triginta et quinque librarum, tenenda eidem H et assignatis suis ut liberum tenementum suum quousque sibi de predictis triginta et quinque libris unacum dampnis suis et expensis suis, in hac parte rationabiliter sustentatis plenarie fuerit satisfactus, prout interius michi precipitur.

Ricardus Clement, miles, vicecomes.

[*Chancery Certificates, etc., of Statutes of Staple. bundle 22. 24 Henry VIII.*]

*Form of recognizance enrolled on Close Roll, A.D. 1319.*

Hugo le Dispenser, senior, et Bartholomaeus de Badlesmere recognoverunt se debere domino regi mille marcas, videlicet: uterque eorum quingentas marcas solvendas eidem domino regi ad voluntatem suam et nisi fecerint, concesserunt quod predicta pecunia levetur de terris et catallis suis in comitatibus Somersetie, Kancie et alibi. Teste rege, apud Sturreye, xviiij die Martii.

Et memorandum quod dominus rex voluit et concessit quod si prefati H & B, quos idem dominus rex misit pro negociis suis ad Curiam Romanam, procurarent utilitatem ipsius regis versus dominum Papam, in decima vel alio modo, usque ad summam duorum milium marcarum ad minus, quod tunc, dicti H. et B. de dictis mille marcis sint quieti, alioquin vult idem dominus Rex quod predictae mille marce de terris et catallis ipsorum H. et B. leventur.

Ista recognicio facta fuit in presenciam dicti domini regis apud Sturreye in forma predicta nunciante magistro Henrico de Clyf.

[*Close Roll, 137, m. 6d. 13 Edward II. Cal. p. 225.*]

Another class comprises the *licences* or *certificates* of the ecclesiastical courts known as *dispensations* and *significavit*s. The former required confirmation by Letters Patent, and are found enrolled on the Chancery Dispensation Rolls, while the latter, invoking the secular aid, resulted in the issue of a writ from Chancery, *de excommunicando capiendo*.

*Dispensation.*

Iohannes, providencia divina Cantuariensis archiepiscopus

tocius Anglie Primas et Metropolitanus, ad infrascripta auctoritate Parliamenti Anglie legitime fulcitus, dilecto nobis in Christo Adamo Spraklyn parochie sancti Laurencii in Tannet in comitatu Kancie, generoso salutem & gratiam. Cum leges ad utilitatem omnium condite ad salutem singulorum de rigore suo aliquid remittere etiam ipse cupiant, nos, partim ex relatione tua, partim ex aliorum fidei dignorum testimonio intelligentes piscium esum sanitati corporis tui adversum esse, salutem tuam ex animo exoptantes, permittimus et indulgemus tibi ut unacum uxore tua et duobus quibusvis aliis arbitrio tuo eligendis et ad mensam tuam invitandis, carnibus cum debita gratiarum actione quibusvis die et tempore publice vetitis vesci possis. Volumus tamen quod sobrie id et frugaliter caute ibidem et ad vitandum publicum scandalum quoad fieri possit tecte et non palam facias nec ad dietam valetudinis causa tibi permissam alios convivas aliter quam superius est expressum admittas. Proviso semper quod annuatim sex solidos et octo denarios in parochia infra quam tunc habitabis ad cistam pauperum conferes et numerabis juxta statutum in Parlamento anno quinto regni serenissime domine nostre Elizabeth Dei gratia Anglie, Francie et Hibernie regine fidei defensor, etc., in ea parte editum et provisum. Volumus etiam quod omnia alia et singula perimplebis et observabis que in dicto statuto continentur legibus aliis et consuetudinibus incontrarium non obstantibus quibuscunque. Data sub sigillo ad facultates primo die mensis martii anno domini juxta computacionem ecclesie Anglicane millesimo quingentesimo nonagesimo septimo, et nostre translationis anno decimo quinto.

Regina, etc. Omnibus ad quos, etc. Inspeximus quasdam Litteras Dispensacionum, presentibus annexas, quas, et singula in eis contenta, juxta quendam actum inde in Parlamento domini Henrici nuper regis Anglie octavi, patris nostri precharissimi, editum, ratificavimus, approbavimus et confirmavimus ac pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris ratificamus, approbamus et confirmamus per presentes. Ita quod Adamus Spraklyn generosus in dictis Litteris nominatus omnibus et singulis in eisdem specificatis uti, frui et potiri valeat et possit, libere et quiete, impune et licite secundum vim, formam et effectum earundem, absque impedimento quocunque. Eo quod expressa mencio de certitudine promissorum aut de aliis donis sive concessionibus per nos eidem Adamo ante hec tempora factis in presentibus minime factis existit aut aliquo statuto actu, ordinatione, provisione, proclamatione sive requisicione inde incontrarium facta, edita, ordinata seu provisa, aut aliqua alia re, causa vel materia quacunque in aliquo non obstante. In cujus rei, etc. Teste Regina, apud Westmonasterium, nono die Martii, anno quadragesimo.

[*Dispensation Roll, No. 4. 40 Elizabeth.*]

*Significavit.*

To the King's most excellent Majesty. Our Sovereign Lord, George the Second, by the grace of God, King of Great Britain,



France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc. We, your Majesty's most dutiful and obedient subject, John, by Divine Providence Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England and Metropolitan, do wish Everlasting Felicity in Him, by whom kings reign and princes bear rule, by Virtue of these presents, we humbly signifie to your most Excellent Majesty, that in a certain cause or suit for diffamation or slander depending in our Consistory Court of Canterbury before our beloved George Paul, Doctor of Laws, our Commissary General of the City and Diocese of Canterbury, lawfully constituted and commenced by Mary Whitaker of the parish of Deal, in the county of Kent and in our diocese of Canterbury, spinster, since the wife of Timothy Hayes, against Elizabeth Storges of the parish of Deal aforesaid, in the said county and diocese and within the Liberty and Jurisdiction of your Majesty's Cinque Ports, the wife of Edward Storges, shoemaker, marriner and fisherman, the Rev. Thomas Lamprey, clerk, Master of Arts, lawful Surrogate of our said Commissary General, duly and regularly proceeding, did pronounce the said Elizabeth Storges to be contumacious in not obeying the lawful monition of our said Commissary General or his Surrogate to the said E. S. duly made and given. And did decree the said E. S. for such her contumacy to be excommunicated, and did accordingly pronounce, read and sign a schedule or sentence of excommunication against the said E. S. And We further signifie to your Majesty that after such sentence of Excommunication so read and pronounced, she, the said E. S. in the parish church of Deal aforesaid, on Sunday the twelfth day of December 1742, in time of Divine Service there, was openly and publicly denounced and declared to be excommunicated pursuant to a mandate from our Commissary General aforesaid, as has been duly certified to our said Commissary General, and yet nevertheless the said E. S., with stubborn and obdurate heart, hath remained under the said sentence of Excommunication by the space of forty days and more since the denunciation or publication of the same, so had and made as aforesaid and so still remaines, in utter contempt of your Majesty's ecclesiastical jurisdiction, to the great peril of her soul and evil example to good Christians. And forasmuch as the Ministers and officers of your Majesty's Ecclesiastical Courts have nothing more that they may or can do in the case, We humbly beseech your most Sacred Majesty that in order to restrain and correct the contumacy and disobedience of the said E. S. so as aforesaid lawfully excommunicated and as such solemnly denounced and published in the face of the Church, your Majesty will be pleased to command and authorize the Ministers and officers of your Majesty's temporal Courts to issue out your Majesty's Writ for taking and imprisoning the body of the said E. S. according to the laws and statutes of the realm, for the well governing whereof we pray God Almighty to preserve your Majesty's prosperous estate. In witness whereof we have caused the seal [ ] general, which we use [ ] to be



hereunto affixed this [ ] of our Lord, 1742, and in the six [ ] of your Majesty's reign.

[*Petty Bag, Cursitors' Records, Bundle 1.*]

Still later types are the sacramental certificates, certificates of residence,\* blood-money certificates, certificates of muster and passing certificates for lieutenants and other officers among the Navy records. These were not enrolled in Chancery, since the originals made out by the various officials were intended to be kept. In a great many cases these documents become mere lists of names.

All these inquisitions, surveys, assessments and certificates have been very cursorily dealt with, but it should be sufficient to demonstrate to the local historian what a wealth of material is at his disposal. To the genealogist the feudal inquisitions will prove invaluable in his efforts to trace a family, and to the compiler of a manorial or family history they will give information as to the lands and boundaries of the manor at different times and in what special jurisdiction, if any, it lay.† The Subsidy Rolls throw light on the population, its prosperity and its occupations in the various villages, parishes or towns, besides being most useful for genealogical purposes.

### (iii) *Royal Accounts.*

It is but a small step from the assessment of taxes to the procedure by which they and other sums due to the Crown were paid in and accounted for—the procedure, that is, of the mediæval Exchequer. It may possibly be objected that documents illustrating this scarcely come within the compass of a local historian; nevertheless, a cursory glance at a *Pipe Roll*, “the backbone of the Exchequer system,” will soon shew by the variety of its contents what a mine of information it affords. On it are recorded the sums contributed to the royal revenue from all the various sources

\* To shew that the person named had been resident in some particular place, and had there paid his contribution to the subsidy being levied.

† Or the service by which it was held—an important and necessary point to establish clearly in Kent, for if the land was held on military tenure no gavelkind customs could attach to it in after years.

in each county, as well as numerous payments out, from which may be gathered information about the journeyings of royal and great personages, their passages across the Channel to and from Dover and other ports, particulars as to the hospitality maintained at Court, as to building works in progress, and details about dress and other personal matters. Thus the separate items serve, as it were, as an index to the activities and concerns of the country generally, and may aid the searcher in the unravelling of many an obscure problem. It is interesting also to note how the sums of money set out as consideration for the grants made in the charters, or due according to the assessments based on the inquisitions, were finally paid in to the Exchequer, and whether to the full amount.

As it is impossible to appreciate at its full value any kind of document without some slight idea of the machinery which produced it, a sketch of the procedure at the Exchequer may not be thought out of place.

It will not be necessary to go into the problem of the early history and development of this important office, which is still, to a certain extent, the subject of discussion.\* "Government without a financial department seems most unlikely"; therefore, from quite early days, the Saxon kings must have had some place for hoarding their treasure. Some kind of rough accounts may have been kept, but there would be no idea of a system of audit. Payments were still chiefly in kind, and therefore accounts were simple matters. But with the increasing revenue and greater demand for actual cash in Norman times a definite financial system became a necessity. It is fortunate that there exists a work of the twelfth century which shews the working of such a system: *De necessariis observantiis Scaccarii Dialogus*, commonly called *Dialogus de Scaccario*.† This work distinguishes between what it terms the lower Exchequer, or Receipt (*Recepta Thesauri*), which became known later as

\* Lane Poole. *The Exchequer in the Twelfth Century*. 1912.

† By Richard, Treasurer of the Exchequer and Bishop of London. Oxford Edition (1902). Cf. Lane Poole, *op. cit.*



the Exchequer of Receipt, where money was paid in, and the upper Exchequer, where the final auditing and balancing of the annual accounts were completed. The principal accounting officer in each county was usually the Sheriff or Shire-reeve, who had a double office: "he was a Minister of Justice under the King for the preservation of Peace," and also "the King's Bayliff of his Revenues arising in the County."\* It was in the latter capacity that he was summoned twice a year, at Easter and Michaelmas, by the Writ called the *Summons of the Exchequer*, later called the *Summons of the Pipe*, to appear and answer for all sums of money due to the Crown out of his county. His appearance and the enrolment of the proceedings later on the Pipe Roll is really the return to the *Writ*, so that the form is closely connected with that noticed in the first part of this section. There were also other accountants, such as stewards and bailiffs of honours and guilds of craftsmen, guardians of temporalities of vacant sees, etc., but, generally speaking, the Sheriff acted for the smaller people, a fact that has largely influenced the form of the entries. For what he paid in to the lower Exchequer the Sheriff was given a receipt in the form of a tally, which he kept for production at the final audit. A tally was a stick, usually of hazel, about eight inches in length with four flat sides. The nature of the transaction was written in duplicate on two sides, while on the other two sides notches were cut of varying breadth to represent the different sums of money received. The stick was then cut down through the notches in such a way that one piece was longer than the other, the larger part, 'the stock,' was kept by the payer, while the other, 'the foil,' remained in the Exchequer. These tallies were cumbersome to refer back to, and so by the time of Henry III., if not sooner, the amounts received were also entered on a roll under separate counties, with the membranes fastened together at the head, Exchequer fashion.

Sums paid out were also noticed, and so arose a series of

\* *A short Treatise touching Sheriffs' Accompts.* Sir Matthew Hale. 1716.



*Receipt and Issue Rolls* made up under days of the week, with reference in the left-hand margin to the particular county (see Part II., *Jornalia Rolls* and Scargill-Bird for various subsidiary documents).

The payments made by the Sheriff at Easter and Michaelmas were known as the 'Profer,' and some of the money was not received at its face value, but was subjected to a test. In mediæval times, from various causes, there was a great deal of difference in the actual value of the coins (silver pennies) that were in use, and even in Domesday Book mention is made of payments from the King's lands as 'blank.' 'Blank' payments on the Pipe Rolls mean that the coin tendered had been assayed to test the fineness of the silver. The method adopted was to take a selected number of coins to the value of one pound sterling, melt them down and test the weight of the purified ingot against a standard pound. Whatever the deficiency proved to be the Sheriff had to pay in so much extra for every pound due from him. The average loss would seem to have been somewhere about 5 per cent., or one shilling in the pound, for, as will be seen later, at the final audit, that is the fixed deduction made from the sums which the Sheriff had paid out and claimed to be credited for in making up his account.

From the lower we pass to the upper Exchequer, where the accounts went through their final stage and were then enrolled. It has been well said that "all the documents of the mediæval Exchequer group themselves about the final audit; that is the ultimate reason for the existence of the department as we know it, and all its records either lead up to the audit, form part of it, or are the result of subsidiary branches of its work." Ultimately two officers, known as the King's Remembrancer and the Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer, presided. The actual date when they assumed control is still a moot point, but the fact remains that, at whatever time they did so, they took over all records, and therefore this class of document comes down to us labelled either 'King's Remembrancer' or 'Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer,' commonly abbreviated to K.R. or L.T.R.

In the latter are included the chief records of the audit, the *Pipe Rolls* and their offshoots. The explanation that the Roll was so called because it was the pipe or channel through which the revenue poured into the King's treasure is not now accepted; it is more likely that the name comes from the fact that the membranes were rolled up and looked like a pipe or cylinder.

The 'profer' at Easter was followed by a preliminary audit known as the *View of the Account*. The Sheriff made his *vere dictum*, or verbal declaration, as to allowances and charges due to him, but he did not produce his various warrants, this was only done at Michaelmas, when the final audit took place, which was called the *summ*. It was then that the proceedings were entered on the Pipe Roll in a form described as a statement of account between the Exchequer and its various officers rather than as a balance sheet. The monies collected from each county are entered separately and approximately in the same order. The principal amount to be accounted for and the one always dealt with first on the roll is the *Farm*, that is the fixed sum at which the rents and profits due to the King from his demesnes and manors in any particular county were farmed out to the Sheriff. It was the payments on this account that were, except in the case of a few counties, exacted, either wholly or in part, in 'blanched' money. Where the farm of a county, as for instance that of Kent, is so much *blank* and so much *numero* or by tale, that is in current coin without test, it has been suggested that the amount 'blank' represents the original sum fixed, and the amount 'numero' a subsequent increment. Out of the farm the Sheriff claimed to have various settled allowances made him, representing *terre datæ*, lands which had been alienated but were still included in the farm, since they might through escheat or forfeiture revert to the Crown; alms and gifts to religious houses, and payments of all kinds which he had been directed to make from time to time by royal writ. Some of these allowances are set down as 'blank,' others as 'numero,' and others again without any designation. In



taking these last two into consideration, in order to determine the actual sum the Sheriff could set off against the amount due from him, they must be 'blanched,' that is, they must be reduced by an allowance of a shilling in the pound (see above) or eightpence in the mark, and so on in proportion.

The first entry that appears on the roll is the statement that the Sheriff, to meet his final liability, has paid into the Treasury a certain sum 'blank,' but the amount was not in practice filled in before the allowances just mentioned had been verified and entered. The customary allowances, *i.e.*, those that were the same year after year, were verified by reference to the preceding rolls; the others by the examination of the vouchers which the Sheriff would produce. After the deduction for 'blanching' had been made from the allowances, the amount thus obtained, added to that represented by the tallies which the Sheriff had received in exchange for the payments made at his 'profers,' gave the total sum which he had been directed in his Writ of Summons to account for as the Farm of the County.\* If the auditors were satisfied, the sum 'blank' mentioned above was entered at the top of the roll, and, at the bottom, *Et quietus est*, he is quit. Occasionally it will be found that the Sheriff, instead of being quit, is said to owe so much: *et debet*. This does not mean that he has failed to account for as much as he should have done, but merely that he has kept so much cash in hand to enable him to meet payments out before collecting fresh rents. In this case the first entry on next year's roll will be the payment in of this amount, 'on account of the old farm.'† On the other hand, the Roll will sometimes state *Et habet superplus*,

\* Previous to the last year of Richard I. the total amount of the Farm was not entered on the Pipe Rolls, but the officers of the Exchequer knew the amount due by reference to a roll called *rotulus exactorius* or tax roll, now lost. Afterwards the actual amount of the Farm is always stated. The farm for Kent was fixed at £412 7s. 6d. 'blank,' and £165 13s. 4d. 'numero,' *vide* G. I. Turner, *The Sheriff's Farm in Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, New Series, vol. xii, p. 141f.

† See for an instance the example of Pipe Roll given below.



he has a surplus, that is, he has paid out money from his own pocket and he will take credit for the amount in next year's account.

After the farm of the county was disposed of the next item in the account might be the *Crementum Comitatus*, which would include any fresh sums coming into the farm from new manors or lands acquired by the King. Following this would be the *Proficuum Comitatus*, or profits of the Sheriff's tourns and of the County Court and payments arising from *Escheats* and *Purprestures* (encroachments upon royal lands by private persons) and from county mints, all of which were sometimes farmed out. Then come the entries of casual revenue, such as the *profits of justice*, amercements and goods of felons and outlaws, *finés* paid for various grants and privileges and sums received by way of *Danegeld*, *Aids*, *Tallages*, *Scutage* and other feudal imposts, all of which were paid over as received.

Further developments and changes were due to the increase of business which tended to swell the rolls, and it was to relieve this congestion that separate rolls were made for various items at first found on the Pipe Rolls. Thus *Desperate Debts* after 12 Ed. I. are entered on the *Exannual Rolls*, and so also there are separate rolls for all accounts foreign to the ordinary jurisdiction of the Sheriff: woods, accounts of the King's wardrobe, of escheators, customs, subsidies; the accounts of castles, honours, manors, towns, etc., that are not included in the farm.

It must be noted that each Pipe Roll is cited as the roll of a certain year of the King's reign, the regnal year in which Michaelmas fell. Thus if a King began to reign at the beginning of September the contents of the Pipe Roll of his first year would be concerned almost entirely with his predecessor's revenue.

From Pipe Roll of 26 Henry II.

#### CHENT.

Robertus filius Bernardi redd. comp. de ixl. et xij. blancorum de veteri firma de Chent. In thesauro liberavit. Et quietus est.

Et idem de nova firma. In thesauro *xlviijl. et xijjs. et xjd. blancorum.*

Et in elemosina constituta militibus de Templo *ijm.* Et in decimis constitutis monacis de Sancto Augustino *xl. numero.* Et infirmis de Roffa *xljs. et vd.*

Et in liberationibus constitutis portario civitatis Cantuarie *xxs.* quia facit justiciam comitatus. Et portario et vigili de Doura *vjl. et xxd.*

Et in terris datis militibus de Templo *vjl. blancorum* in Dela. Et eisdem *xiiijl. blancorum* in Stroda. Et eisdem *xxs. numero* in Chingeswuda. Et Roberto Bacun *cs. blancorum* in Tarenteford'. (And to several others, including the monks of Faversham 128*l.* 8*s.* *blancorum* and 9*l.* *numero*). Et Hugoni filio Anselmi Campdaucine quater *xxl. et lxxs. numero* ad perficiendas *c. libratas* terre quas Rex dedit patri suo. Et monialibus de Schepeia *xxxixs. et iijd.* in consuetudine terre Goscelini. Et in Doura *xxiiijl. blancorum* de quibus compotus debet reddi per se. Et ecclesie Christi Cantuarie *xxvl. numero* in Middelton' ad perficiendas *xl. libratas* terre quas Rex dedit Deo et Beato Tome (other allowances 15*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*). Et Rohesie sorori Sancti Tome *xjl. de elemosina* Regis in molendino Cantuarie. Et hospitali de Blien *cs.* in Leesdon' ad inveniendos *ij capellanos* et clericos eorum in perpetuum in obsequio hospitalis. Et Ricardo Giffard' *xxvl. numero* in Ailesford'.

Et in operatione muri circa castellum de Doura *c et lxxl. et xiijs. et iiijd.* per breve regis et per visum Philippi de Pisingis et Godwini filii Amfridi et Walteri de Esteria. Et quietus est.

#### De prepresturis et excaetis.

Idem vicecomes redd. comp. de quater *xxl. et xixs. et xid.* de firma prepresturarum quarum nomina sunt in *xix<sup>o</sup> rotulo.* In thesauro *xxxl. et xs. et vd.*

Et in terris datis abbati de Boxelega *xvijs. et ijd.* de servitio Willelmi Parcarii (and to Gerard de Dunein and others in various amounts 49*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*). Et quietus est.

Idem vicecomes redd. comp. de *lxjs. et jd.* de exitu terre Martini de Capella. In thesauro *lixs. et jd.* Et in emendatione *j* molendini ejusdem terre *ijs.* Et quietus est.

Normanus Clericus debet *c et xvijs. et ijd.* de misericordia . . . Radulfus Mustel debet *j<sup>m</sup>.* pro defalta. Sed nichil habet.

#### De misericordia monetariorum Cantuarie.

Radulfus de Ria redd. comp. de *ccc et quater xx et xiiijl. et vjs et viijd.* de misericordia sua. In thesauro *lxvj<sup>l.</sup> et xiijs. et iiijd.* Et debet *ccc et xxvj<sup>l.</sup> et xiijs. et iiijd.*

Hugo Cocus redd. comp. de *jm.* pro vino vendito contra assisam.  
In thesauro liberavit. Et quietus est.

Geruasius de Cornhill' debet *xijl.* et *iijs.* et *vd.* de boscis de Becheham et Chingesdon' et Bromlega qui fuerunt inimicorum Regis venditis tempore werre.

Nova placita et nove conventiones per Hugonem Murdac et Ricardum de Pech et Michaellem Belet et socios suos.

Mauricius de Wadehale redd. comp. de *ijm.* pro scutellis inventis non sigillatis. In thesauro *xxs.* Et debet *xxs.*

Idem vicecomes redd. comp. de *ijm.* de Blengatahundredo pro murthero. In thesauro *jm.* Et debet *jm.*

Idem vicecomes redd. comp. de *vm.* de villata de Roffa pro falsa mensura. In thesauro *xls.* Et debet *ijm.* (Various other fines for withdrawal from a plea, for receiving fugitives, for not being in frank pledge, for unjust disseisin).

#### De his qui totum reddiderunt.

Idem vicecomes redd. comp. de *dim m.* de Godefrido Schamele. Et de *dim m.* de Hugone filio Soldene pro defalta. Et de *jm.* de plegiis Salew' quia non habuerunt eum coram justiciis. Etc. Etc. (Various fines for bringing false accusations and making false presentments, etc.) Summa *viiijl.* et *xs.* In thesauro liberavit in *xvij tallis.* Et quietus est.

#### De placitis curie.

Willelmus de Cyreton' et Amfridus de Canci et Emma de Setrans reddt. comp. de *cm.* pro habenda terra Willelmi filii Helte. In thesauro *vm.* de Willelmo de Cyreton'. Et debent quater *xx* et *xvm.* Idem reddt. comp. de eodem debito. In thesauro *xm.* de Amfrido de Canci. Et *ijm.* de Johanne Monaco et Emma de Setuans. Et debent *lvj.* et *vjs.* et *viijd.* Engelrannus Patriz debet *xlm.* pro recto de dote uxoris sue filie Roberti Bertram.

Ricardus de Bouilliers debet *xls.* pro licentia concordandi cum Hamone filio Helye de terra de Seres.

Idem vicecomes redd. comp. de *xxvs.* et *vd.* de superplus instauramenti de Godwineston' quam Lambertus Frese habuit in vadio. In thesauro liberavit. Et quietus est.

Willelmus de Godwineston' redd. comp. de *xxiiijl.* quas debuit Lambino Frese fugitivo super Godwineston' vadio ejusdem Lamberti. In thesauro *xl.* et *xjs.* et *ixd.* Et debet *xiiijl.* et *viijs.* et *iijd.*



## DOVRA.

Robertus filius Bernardi redd. comp. de xxiiij*l.* blancorum et de xxx*l.* numero de firma de Doura. In thesauro nichil.

Et in passagio episcopi Wintoniensis et eorum qui cum eo transfretaverunt iii*l.* et xv*s.* per breve regis. Et in passagio Comitis Willelmi de Mandevill' lxx*s.* per breve regis. Et in passagio falconariorum et austurcariorum Regis per Willelmum de Gerponuill', v*l.* et xv*s.* et ii*l.* per breve Randulfi de Glanuill'. Et in minutis passagiis per brevia regis xx*l.* et vs. et iii*l.* Et debet xvii*l.* et xvi*s.* et v*d.* numero.

[*Pipe Roll of 26 Henry II., vol. xxix. Pipe Roll Society.*]

## NOTE.

It is interesting to examine the 'entries above relating to the Sheriff's farm and to see how they agree with the amount of the gross farm of Kent, £412 7*s.* 6*d.* blank and £165 13*s.* 4*d.* numero given in the note to p. 36.

The Sheriff is credited with a payment to				
Treasury of . . . . .				£48 13 11 blank.
His total allowances blank are . . . . .				176 8 0 „
Do. do. numero are	£362	16	0	
Deduct from this the amount				
of the 'farm' numero . . . . .	165	13	4	
			197	2 8
Deduct 1 <i>s.</i> in the £ for				
blanching . . . . .			9	17 1
				187 5 7 „
				£412 7 6 blank.

So far enrolments have been dealt with, but closely connected with these are the original accounts from which the enrolments were made. The officers coming up for audit would bring with them a roll of particulars with all the vouchers, and after the audit these were left at the office of the King's Remembrancer. Amongst these records are found Ministers' and Receivers' accounts of lands and tenements in the hands of the Crown, accounts of Sheriffs and Escheators, of collectors of customs and of all the various accountants at the Exchequer.

Before leaving this section one other class of records must be noticed ; for, although they are not in the form of

accounts, they are closely connected with them; these are the Memoranda Rolls of the two Remembrancers. They form a very large and bulky class, and so far are practically unworked. They are the records of current Exchequer proceedings. By the fourteenth century the difference between the King's and the Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer is roughly considered to be this: the King's dues, as rents, fines, issues and amercements levied through the Sheriff go straight to the Pipe Roll, that is to the Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer, while debts, that is occasional payments, however frequent, are noted by the King's Remembrancer and go up for enrolment to the Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer as foreign accounts. The Memoranda Rolls serve, as it were, as the minute books of the department. Writs are entered, notes on changes in the staff, occasional accounts in different counties, and casual matters such as complaints of Sheriff, that monies he paid in years ago are still being claimed from him. These rolls are also important for the entries they contain of judicial matters connected with the Exchequer. There are certain guides to their contents which will be noticed below.

### C.—JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

The judicial proceedings to be dealt with in this section are very similar to the ministerial proceedings, for the chief form is still that of the *Writ* and the *Return*. The documents do not come down to us from one source, but issue from the various courts that exercised judicial functions.

A brief outline of the history of these courts and a summary enumeration of the documents they produced will be the most effective way of dealing with this section. But first it may be as well to say a few words about the King's Council, which has been described, in words borrowed from Huxley, as the "structural unit" of all organised bodies in the Constitution: Privy Council, Cabinet, Parliament, and Courts of Justice. King's Council, Curia Regis, is but a later name for a body performing similar functions to those

assigned in early days to the members of the king's household. In the Middle Ages the history of institutions is the history of the gradual specialisation of functions brought about by the development of different methods of procedure. Owing to this specialisation various courts split off and acquired a separate identity.\* Thus we have the *Common Law Courts*, the *Exchequer*, the *Chancery*, the *Courts of Star Chamber and Requests* (that stand out in Tudor times and were abolished by the Commonwealth), and *Parliament*. The point is that each of these bodies, to a greater or less extent, inherited functions legislative, administrative, or judicial, possessed by the common parent; but on hardening into courts usually one characteristic alone became dominant.

#### (1) *The Common Law Courts.*†

Although the exercise of judicial functions is one of the earliest powers developed by a king, it does not necessarily lead to the immediate creation of records. It is true that laws were promulgated by various Saxon kings, but there exist scarcely any records of their practical application, which was guided by custom and oral tradition. In the collections that have survived it is noticeable that the matters dealt with are mainly criminal; they give a list of wrongs and crimes, most of which are 'emendable' by a money payment, but there is no civil law. It was a step in advance when the king, in some cases, claimed a fine for himself as atonement for breaking his peace, besides the satisfaction due to the injured party. From this small germ developed the later *Placita Coronæ*, until, with the gradual widening of the king's sphere of influence, the centralised justice of later mediæval and modern times was finally matured.

The theory of the king's peace proved most fertile; at

\* For an interesting table shewing how various courts and state departments have originated from the King in his Council, see L. O. Pike, *The Public Records and the Constitution*, Oxford, 1907.

† For this and the following sub-sections see Pollock and Maitland, *History of English Law, before Edward I.*, 2 vols., 1898; also W. S. Holdsworth, *History of English Law*, 3 vols., 1903-9.



first peculiar to the king's house and for the protection of his servants and attendants, it was extended about the eighth or ninth century to all travellers on the four great through roads, and about the end of the eleventh century, to all highways, and eventually it embraced "all places within the realm and all persons who were not outlaws." The right of formal appeal to the king was also recognized quite early; there was therefore a good foundation on which he could build up his judicial powers. With the growth of feudalism the king's court, held wherever he happened to be, was regarded as the court of his tenants in chief, just as they in their turn held courts to do justice between their tenants. If a man had no remedy in the king's court it did not follow that he had none elsewhere, for besides the manorial there still existed the local pre-Conquest courts of the County and the Hundred. The great landmark in the history of law and justice is the reign of Henry II., 1154—1189; within those five and thirty years may be found, in various stages of advance, traces of all the elements with which we are familiar in later times. It is unnecessary here to discuss the different theories propounded in this connection; it is sufficient just to mention the main characteristics of the progress made: the gradual centralization of justice, which was necessary owing to the multiplication of petty courts under the feudal system, the increase of civil pleas, the new system of administering justice and the establishment of record keeping. The king was able to centralise justice because he had a better article to offer than the feudal lords. All early administration of justice might be called amateur, especially that of the feudal lords; in the hands of Henry II. it was becoming a profession. Already tenants were not bound to answer for their free tenements in their lord's court without the king's writ, and this might be so worded that the case was thereby called up before the king.

The next step was the institution of the possessory assizes; *Novel Disseisin*, *Mort d'Ancestor*, the *Assize Utrum* and *Darrein Presentment*. To carry out these assizes, or

recognitions by inquest, recourse was had to the opinion of men from the neighbourhood and personally acquainted with the subject of the dispute. Not altogether a new method of procedure, for it has been seen at work in the compilation of Domesday Book, and other similar inquisitions (*vide* p. 19), but its application to judicial affairs was an innovation and a decided advance on the old appeal to the supernatural in the ordeal by battle.

In an assize of *Novel Disseisin* the jurors decided from personal knowledge whether A unjustly and without judgment of a court had dispossessed B of his free tenement at any time since the king's last journey (to Normandy, or other appointed term). In an assize of *Mort d'Ancestor* they were called on to say whether A, father of B, died possessed of his free tenement, in which case B was the lawful successor and not X, who had seized the land and might be an outsider, or the dead man's lord, who had entered in on pretext of making good his seignorial claims. If X thought that he had a superior right he should have had recourse to a *Writ of Right*, when the question could have been decided either by battle or by a jury; if the latter the procedure would be by inquest bearing the name of the *Grand Assize*.

The Assize *Utrum* determined whether the land in dispute were a lay fee or ecclesiastical; and *Darrein presentment*, who presented last to a particular living, so that he or his heir should do so again. It must be noted in connection with these possessory assizes that it is possession they are protecting, not ownership. This is one of the complexities of mediæval land-tenure. The man who held his lands hereditably from an overlord for performance of some service was secured in his possessory rights or seisin, and in mediæval law such an one was considered to have a freehold or free tenement, because he and his children held the lands for an indefinite term, since no one could say when his heirs would fail. The right of the overlord in land thus granted out was 'ownership' and could be asserted on failure of the tenant to perform his due service. As mentioned above, one of the overlord's remedies was by suing out a *Writ of Right*.



Another point to be noticed is the use of the word *Assize*. In one sense it means the Writ, in another the body of men summoned by that Writ to answer a definite question contained therein. The principle of the assize differs, therefore, from that of the contemporary jury, who were summoned after a case had begun, by the consent of the parties, to decide a particular point that had arisen. In criminal cases there was a presenting jury which eventually developed into the Grand and Petty jury. But in their origin all three were different in their functions from the modern jury, who arrive at the facts by hearing and weighing evidence. The mediæval jurors gave their verdict from an actual knowledge of facts; they had not to form an opinion on matters put before them and outside their knowledge.

With the increasing activity of the King's Court came reorganisation and development. The king could not be present at the trial of all the cases that came before it, for much of his time was still taken up in journeying to different parts of the country and to his different manors. It was necessary to appoint four or five judges who were deputed to hear these civil pleas. This experiment was first tried in A.D. 1178. Nevertheless the king could at any time hear them, if he so wished. Then came the complaint, remedied in Magna Carta, of the expense and waste of time caused to suitors by having to follow the king about in order to get justice done them.\* But while by the time of Henry III. the civil pleas were definitely held at Westminster and the suitors were summoned before the King's Justices, the pleas of the Crown,

\* The classical example of the long duration of a case and of the difficulties that beset the plaintiff, who was compelled to follow his suit in person, is that of Richard of Anesty, who, claiming certain lands as his uncle's heir, spent from A.D. 1158–1163, and nearly all his fortune, before obtaining a final sentence in his favour. During this time he sent, or went himself, four times to France to obtain royal writs from the King in person; twice he sent representatives to Rome, because the case, raising a point of bastardy, was taken into the ecclesiastical courts and an appeal made to the Pope; and endless months were spent following the King's person from place to place in England before judgment was given. (c. Pollock and Maitland, *History of English Law*, vol. i., p. 158.)



in theory at any rate, still followed the king and men were summoned to appear *coram ipso domino Rege*, or *coram nobis ubicunque fuerimus in Anglia*. But in time this Court, too, became stationary.

The court held by the King's Justices eventually became known as the Court of Common Pleas, and later as the Common Bench, and that held 'coram Rege,' the King's Bench, with its Crown side for treason and all crimes, and its later developed plea side for all trespasses *vi et armis*, forgeries, etc., and other actions of a criminal nature, brought for a civil remedy. But it is the Justices of the Common Pleas who were usually alluded to as 'de banco' and their roll as the 'de banco roll.'

As might be expected in the early records, no clear distinction was made between these two main classes. The earliest series of rolls extant, though probably not the first kept or compiled, run from 5 Richard I. to 56 Henry III., but the heading is seldom more definite than *Placita*, or *Placita apud Westmonasterium*. From 1 Edward I. there are two series, the Coram Rege Rolls and the Plea Rolls, with the name of the county in the left-hand margin.

This development of the Curia Regis did not, however, complete the Crown's equipment for administering justice: there are the *Justices Itinerant* or *Justices in Eyre* to be considered, and they have left important records of great value to the local historian. The Justices in Eyre were at first sent out on commission at irregular intervals to hear more especially Pleas of the Crown. Their chief object was to increase the revenue, and their methods were oppressive and unpopular. The scope of their commission was gradually extended until they were competent to hear pleas of all kinds. On the rolls will generally be found the following headings, viz. :—

*Placita de Juratis et Assisis.*

*Placita Coronæ.*

*Placita Forinseca* (pleas from another county brought up for termination or the like).

*Placita de quo Warranto.*

The rolls were made up under counties and there were several copies, one of which was marked 'Rex.'

After 10 Edward III. there was no further appointment of these Justices in Eyre and they were replaced by, and their functions divided between, the more popular *Justices of Assize*, appointed to take the possessory assizes; *Justices of Oyer and Terminer*, to determine special causes such as riot or heinous misdemeanour; *Justices of Gaol Delivery*, to hear all cases of persons lying in gaol at the time of the appointment.

As to the form of these plea rolls, between the opening writ and ultimate verdict, which may be considered as the return, there is much variety of matter. This class of records abounds in formalities and technicalities. Like moves in a game of chess, a certain opening requires a certain reply; but, unlike chess, there is no possibility of change in the procedure, a line of accusation or defence once begun must be followed up. Mediæval justice was a lengthy business: there were certain delays and excuses for non-appearance at the court that were allowed. The litigants could neglect the first three summonses provided they made the legitimate excuses or *essoins*.\* They might also choose to appear by attorney, and then there was the formality of his recognition by the court.

Placita apud Westmonasterium coram W. de Herle et sociis suis Justiciariis domini Regis de Banco de termino sancti Trinitatis anno regni Regis Edwardi tertii a conquestu primo.

Kancia. Preceptum fuit vicecomiti quod, assumptis secum quatuor discretis et legalibus militibus de comitatu suo, in propria persona sua accederet ad curiam abbatis Westmonasterii de Westerham et in plena curia illa recordari faceret loquelam que fuit in eadem curia sine brevi regis inter Ricardum Brounecok et Johannem Chareman de quodam equo ipsius Ricardi capto et injuste detento, ut dicitur. Et quod recordum illud haberet hic ad hunc diem, etc., sub sigillo suo et sigillis quatuor legalium hominum ejusdem curie ex illis qui recordo illo interfuerint. Et partibus eundem diem prefigeret quod tunc essent in loquela illa prout justum fuerit processura. Et vicecomes nichil inde fecit set

\* The excuses for non-appearance in the King's Bench and Common Pleas are entered on separate Rolls, known as *Essoin Rolls*.



mandavit quod nulla curia tenta fuit ibidem post receptionem istius brevis. Ideo sicut prius preceptum est vicecomiti quod assumptis secum, etc., accedat ad curiam predictam, et recordari faciat loquelam predictam, etc., et recordum habeat hic in crastino Animarum sub sigillo, etc. Et partibus eundem diem, etc. Et vicecomes sit, etc.

[*De Banco Roll 270, m. 11d.*]

Johannes de Warfeld per Henricum Wykwane, attornatum suum optulit se iiij<sup>to</sup> die versus Thomam Tony de Sydyngbourne de placito quod reddat ei rationabilem compotum suum de tempore quo fuit receptor denariorum ipsius Johannis, etc. Et ipse non venit, et fuit attachiatus per Walterum Wyse et Willelmum de Ore. Ideo ipsi in misericordia. Et preceptum est vicecomiti quod distringat eum per omnes terras, etc. Et quod de exitibus, etc. Et quod habeat corpus ejus hic in octabis sancti Michaelis, etc., per I. de Bousser, etc.

[*De Banco Roll 270, m. 65.*]

Placita coram domino Rege apud Westmonasterium de termino sancti Michaelis anno regni Regis Henrici Octavi primo.

Kancia. Johannes Clynton de Clynton, miles, dominus de Clynton & Say, per attornatum suum optulit se iiij<sup>to</sup> die versus Johannem Barowe, nuper de Preston juxta Wyngham in comitatu predicto, yoman, & Johannem Trewonwall nuper de Molaishh in comitatu predicto, gentilman, de placito quare vi & armis Johannem filium & heredem Thome Gybbis gentilman, infra etatem existentem cujus maritagium ad ipsum Johannem Clynton pertinet, apud Folkeston inventum rapuerunt & abduxerunt contra voluntatem ipsius Johannis Clynton & contra pacem domini H. septimi, nuper regis Anglie, patris nostri. Et interim diligenter inquiras ubi ille heres est in balliva tua & ipsum ubicumque inventus fuerit capias & salvo & securus custodias. Ita quod eum habeas coram nobis ad prefatum terminum ubicumque tunc fuerimus in Anglia ad reddendum cui vel quibus predictorum J. C., J. B., J. T., reddi debeat. Et ipsi non venerunt et preceptum fuit vicecomiti quod attachiet eos &c. Et vicecomes retornavit quod ipsi attachiati est (sic) per plegium Johannis Dod, Ricardi Mot. Ideo ipsi in misericordia &c. Et preceptum est vicecomiti quod distringat eos per omnes terras, &c. Et quod de exitibus &c. Et quod habeat corpora eorum coram domino rege a die sancti Martini in xv dies ubicumque &c.

[*Coram Rege Roll, 993, m. 42d.*]

Item alias scilicet die Martis proxima post festum Epiphanie Domini anno regni domini H. nuper regis Anglie septimi post conquestum vicesimo secundo apud Maydeston in comitatu predicto coram Johanne Fyneux, milite, Roberto Rede, milite, Johanne



Roper et aliis justiciariis dicti nuper regis ad pacem in comitatu predicto conservandam necnon ad diversas felonias, transgressiones et alia malescottes in comitatu predicto audiendum et terminandum assignatis per sacramentum xij juratorum extitit presentatum quod Willelmus Robynson nuper de Charryng in comitatu predicto taillour, vicesimo die Novembris anno regni dicti nuper regis vicesimo secundo, vi et armis, videlicet, gladiis, baculis et cultellis clausum et domum Johannis Dreyson apud Charryng predictum fregit et intravit et unam togam coloris de violetto ad valenciam decem solidorum, unum luithiamen ad valenciam duorum solidorum, unum par manucarum vocatum Women slevys ad valenciam septem denariorum et unum par forcipis vocatum taylers sheres ad valenciam duodecim denariorum de bonis et catallis predicti Johannis Dreyson ad tunc et ibidem inventis felonice furatus fuit, cepit et asportavit contra pacem dicti domini regis, etc.

[*Cor. Rege Roll*, 993, m. 18d. *Membranes headed Fines and Amercements at end of Roll.*]

### Assize Roll.

Assisa venit recognitura si Johannes Harm (?) & Walterus de Wurmelegh' injuste, etc., disseisiverunt Ricardum de Mariscis de libero tenemento suo in Wicham post ultimam, etc. Et J. & W. veniunt & nichil dicunt quare assisa remaneat. Et ideo procedat assisa. Et juratores dicunt quod J. & W. non disseisiverunt eum quia idem R. habuit unum fratrem Hamonem nomine & hereditas eorum partita fuit inter eos sicut Gavelikind. Ita quod dictum tenementum cecidit ad partem ipsius Hamonis. Et H. vendidit idem tenementum cuidam Laurentio & L. aliis per quos J. & W. habent terram illam. Ita quod R. nunquam seisinam habuit de illo tenemento & ideo non fuit etc., ideo J. & W. inde quieti & R. in misericordia. Custodiat. Postea invenit plegium de misericordia, scilicet Robertum de Hegham filium Dionisii.

Rolland de Acstede, Willelmus de Dudington', Philippus Ruffin & Willelmus de Barnlinges quatuor milites summoniti ad eligendum xij ad faciendum recognitionem magne assise inter Engelramum de Shaford & Ricardum fratrem ejus. petentes, & Thomam de Thelne & Isabellam uxorem ejus, tenentes, de vj aeris terre et dimidia cum pertinentiis in Pecham, unde predicti T. & I. qui tenentes sunt posuerunt se in magnam assisam domini regis & petunt recognitionem si utrum ipsi maius jus habent in terra illa an predicti E. & R., venerunt & elegerunt istos Rolland de Acsted, Willelmus de Dudington, Philippus Ruffin, Willelmus de Barnling' [and 12 others]. Dies datus est eis ut de die in diem die Martis proximo post octabas sancti Dionisii. Concordatum fuit per dimidiam marcam quam T. de T. dat per plegium Ricardum le Park. m. 2.

Magna assisa venit recognitura per Rollandum de Acstede, Hen-

ricum de Maulling, Philippum Ruffin, Hugonem Pincernam [and 8 others] ad recognitionem utrum Ada le Tannere qui tenet maius jus habet in tribus acris et tribus perticatis terre in Maidenstan an Walterus Nuncius & Alicia uxor ejus qui petunt, etc. Et sciendum quod assisa ista capiatur in curia Archiepiscopi quia terra ista est de feodo suo coram ballivis suis, justiciariis presentibus. Et juratores dicunt quod A. qui tenet maius [jus] habet in terra illa quam predicti W. & A. qui petunt & sufficientes ostendunt rationes. Et ideo consideratum est quod A. & heredes sui teneant terram illam in pace quiete inperpetuum de ipsis W. & A. & heredibus ipsorum inperpetuum. Et W. & A. in misericordia. *m. 10.*

#### Placita Coronae.

##### Hundredum de Blakehetfeuld.

Simon de Okeham & Morandus de eadem villa occiderunt quendam garcionem comitatus Gloucestrie ad crucem lapideam super Blakehatfeuld. Et Martinus de le Rødweye de Grenewic primus inventor & non venit & ideo in misericordia pro defalta. Et ipsi S. & M. malecreduntur. Capiantur (?). Non sunt inventi, ideo exigantur et utlagantur. Nulla englescheria presentata est. Judicium murdrum.

Villa Roffe in misericordia quod vendicabant sibi libertatem de placitis tenendis in villa sua quam non habuerunt.

Ricardus de Heltham occidit Alexandrum filium Hugonis quodam cultello apud Madingesham in domo Willelmi filii Hamundi. Et juratores dicunt quod quidam R. le Page utlagatus fuit pro morte illa per comitatum et postea comitatus hoc dead-vocavit et ideo ad iudicium de juratoribus. Et Emma mater ipsius Alexandri voluit sequi mortem illam sed non fuit ausa pro Rogero de Grunestun tunc vicecomite quia cum vellet sequi idem vicecomes eam imprisonavit et etiam duos fratres suos. Nulla englescheria presentata. Judicium murdrum. *m. 16.*

##### Hundredum de Twyford.

Thomas de Terstan capellanus cecidit de equo suo in quandam aquam ita quod summersus fuit & nullus malecreditur. Judicium infortunium. Precium equi xs. quem Benedictus Roffensis episcopus postea recepit. *m. 19.*

[*Assize Roll, Kent, 358, 11 Henry III.*]

#### Placita de Quo Warranto.

##### Comitatus Kancie.

Abbas Westmonasterii summonitus fuit ad respondendum domino regi de placito quo warranto clamavit habere retorum omnium brevium regis in maneriis suis de Westerham, Edelinebrigge, Coumbe et Hamme cum placito vetiti namii et visum franci



plegii. infangenthef et outfangenthef. fines et amerciamenta hominum suorum cum omnibus libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus quas regia potestas alicui domui religiose conferre potest, etc.

Et abbas, per attornatum suum, venit et dicit quod Edelinebrigg, Combe et Hamme sunt hamelette predicti manerii de Westerham, et dicit quod dominus E. rex, pater domini regis nunc concessit et confirmavit Deo et ecclesie sancti Petri, Westmonasterii et cuidam Waltero, quondam abbati, predecessori suo, et ejusdem loci conventui et successoribus suis predictum manerium de Westerham cum pertinentiis una cum libertate habendi retorum omnium brevium regis, placitum vetiti namii, etc., in manerio predicto cum pertinentiis, etc. Et profert cartam ejusdem domini E. regis, patris, etc., que predictas concessionem et confirmationem testatur, ejus data est apud Berewyk super Twedam, tricesimo die Octobris, anno regni ejusdem regis patris, vicesimo et eo warranto, etc. Et quo ad habendum omnes libertates et liberas consuetudines quas regia potestas conferre potest alicui domui religiose, etc., prout in predicto brevi continetur, etc., per hoc nichil clamat, etc.

Et G. de Hertepol qui sequitur pro domino rege petit quod inquiratur per patriam qualiter predictus abbas et predecessores sui a tempore confectionis predictæ carte libertatibus illis hucusque usi sunt, etc. Ideo fiat inde jurata.

Juratores de hundredis de Axton, Westerham, Toltyntre dicunt super sacramentum suum quod predictus abbas et predecessores sui a tempore confectionis predictæ carte hucusque habuerunt libertates predictas et illis usi sunt sine interrupcione, set dicunt quod ipsi usi sunt tenendo visum franci plegii ad curias suas de W. de tribus septimanis in tres septimanas. Ideo predictæ libertates eidem abbati allocentur salvo jure regis, etc. Et quia compertum est per juratam istam quod predictus abbas et similiter predecessor suus immediatus hucusque tenuerunt predictum visum in curia sua predicta de tribus septimanis in tres septimanas contra legem et consuetudinem, etc., inhibutum est eidem abbati per justiciarios ne ulterius abutatur libertate illa, et quod teneat visum predictam de cetero bis per annum tantum, etc. Postea Willelmus de Burwash, ballivus predicti abbatis qui tenuit predictam curiam fecit finem cum domino rege per quadraginta solidos per plegium Radulphi de Shenefeld, junioris, Johannis Ughtred, Willelmi de Heystrode et Johannis atte Well, etc.

[*Record Commission, Placita de Quo Warranto, 1818, p. 311.*]

A large class of documents known as *Fines and Recoveries* are of great importance in connection with the conveyance of freehold land and its official recognition by enrolment among the records of the Court in which the suit, whether real or fictitious, was begun. The process of levying a Fine was as follows: A writ of covenant was sued out of



the Court of Common Pleas, the complaint being that a covenant had not been fulfilled. On this writ the Crown received a *Primer Fine* of one-tenth of the annual value of the lands in question. The case came up in Court, and both parties agreed to settle the dispute by an amicable and final concord. To obtain this *licentia concordandi* meant another fine to the King, the *Post Fine*, known as the *King's Silver*, this time three-twentieths of the annual value. The Concord as finally drawn up was in three parts indented, one to be kept by each of the parties, and the third, known as the *pes finis*, by the *Custos Brevium*.

Hec est finalis concordia facta in curia Domini Regis apud Westmonasterium dominica tercia post Pascha anno Regni Regis Ricardi vij . . . [coram Ricardo Lon]diniensi & G. Roffensi episcopis (and others) & aliis fidelibus domini Regis tunc ibi presentibus.

Inter R. abbatem de Boxelega & conventum [ejusdem loci petentes] & Osbertum de Longo Campo & Avelinam uxorem ejus tenentes per eundem Osbertum positum loco suo ad lucrandum vel perdendum de terra de [Wenhella unde plac]itum fuit inter eos in prefata curia scilicet quod predictus abbas & conventus de Boxelega quietum clamaverunt prefatis Osberto & Avelina [uxori ejus et heredibus] suis totum jus & clamium que habuerunt in predicta terra de Wenhella cum pertinentiis. Et pro hac fine & concordia & quieta clamantia [prefatus Osbertus] & Avelina uxor ejus dederunt jam dicto abbati & conventui vj marcas esterlingorum. Et preterea dederunt eis in puram & perpetuam elemosinam ijs. de redditu j molendini de Cutidde-mille annuatim solvendos ad ij terminos scilicet ad pascha medietatem & aliam medietatem ad festum sancti Michaelis.

Ita quod Osbertus & Avelina vel heredes eorum nichil poterunt clamare in predicto molendino nisi multuram domus proprie de Helinton' & si conquerantur de non legetima multura abbas predicti loci justiciabit molendinarios suos super hoc in curia sua. Preterea dabunt annuatim illi & heredes sui prefato abbati & conventui ijs. de terra de Oxefrid de qua antecessores predictae Aveline dabant annuatim xij*d*. Quietum etiam clamaverunt prefato abbati & conventui a se & heredibus suis totum jus quod dicebant se habere in domibus paridis Roffensis archidiaconi in London super Tamisiam et totum illud clamium & jus suum que dicebant se habere in tenemento parcariorum de Boxelega. Preterea concesserunt monachis libere & quiete piscari in Medweia contra terram suam.

[*Publications of the Pipe Roll Society, Vol. 17, No. 142, 1894. Feet of Fines in P.R.O. from A.D. 1182 to A.D. 1196.*]

A Recovery was a fictitious suit by which, in its simplest form, land held by a tenant in tail could be conveyed to him in fee simple, thus barring the entail. By the time of Edward IV. it was recognised as “an ingenious and effectual means of putting an end to all fettered inheritances and of barring estates tail and all remainders and reversions expectant thereon.” The procedure was for B, known as the demandant, the person to whom A, the tenant in tail, wished for any ulterior purpose to convey the estate, to bring an action by the writ *Præcipe quod reddat* against A to recover the lands, alleging that A only came into possession after one X had turned him out. A called upon a third person to warranty; this vouchee having acknowledged his liability, was then, by permission of the Court, ‘imparled’ or interviewed in private by the demandant, and disappeared from the scene, in flagrant contempt of court, so that judgment went against him by default. The lands were adjudged to B, and A was supposed to recover an estate of equal value from the vouchee, a man of straw and usually the crier of the court. A writ was directed to the Sheriff of the county to give the demandant seisin, but of course there was an understanding that the latter should deal with the lands in such manner as he had agreed with A previously.

Johannes Caffinch in propria persona sua petit versus Johannem Hendly & Hestoram uxorem ejus quatuor mesuagia & duo gardina cum pertinentiis in Tenterden ut jus & hereditatem suam. Et in que iidem J. H. & H. non habent ingressum nisi post disseisinam quam Hugo Hunt inde injuste & sine judicio fecit prefato Johanni Caffinch infra triginta annos jam ultimo elapsos, &c. Et unde dicit quod ipsemet fuit seisitus de tenementis predictis cum pertinentiis in dominico suo ut de feodo & jure tempore pacis tempore domini Regis nunc capiendo inde expletias ad valenciam, &c. Et in que, &c. Et inde producit sectam, &c. Et predicti J. H. & H. in propriis personis suis veniunt & defendunt jus suum quando, &c. Et vocant inde ad warrantiam Edwardum Howse qui presens est hic in curia in propria persona sua. Et gratis tenementa predicta cum pertinentiis eis warrantisat, &c. Et super hoc predictus J. C. petit versus ipsum Edwardum tenentem per warrantiam suam tenementa predicta cum pertinentiis in forma predicta, &c. Et unde dicit quod ipsemet fuit seisitus de tenementis predictis cum



pertinentiis in dominico suo ut de feodo & jure tempore pacis tempore domini regis nunc capiendo inde expletas ad valenciam, &c. Et in que, &c. Et inde producit sectam, &c.

Et predictus E. tenens per warrantiam suam defendit jus suum quando, &c. Et dicit quod predictus Hugo non disseisivit prefatum J. C. de tenementis predictis cum pertinentiis prout idem J. C. per breve & narrationem sua predicta superius supponit. Et de hoc ponit se super patriam, &c. Et predictus J. C. petit licenciam inde interloquendi. Et habet, &c. Et postea idem J. C. revenit hic in curia ista eodem termino in propria persona sua. Et predictus E. licet solempniter exactus non revenit. Set in contemptu curie recessit. Et defaultam facit. Ideo consideratum est quod predictus J. C. recuperet seisinam suam versus prefatos J. H. & H. de tenementis predictis cum pertinentiis. Et quod iidem J. H. & H. habeant de terra predicti Edwardi ad valenciam, &c. Et idem E. in misericordia, &c. Et super hoc predictus J. C. petit breve domini regis de habere faciendo ei plenariam seisinam de tenementis predictis cum pertinentiis vicecomiti comitatus predicti dirigendi & ei conceditur retornabile hic in crastino Animarum, &c. Ad quem diem hic venit predictus J. C. in propria persona sua. Et vicecomes, videlicet Edwardus Chute, armiger, modo mandat quod ipse virtute brevis predicti sibi directi vicesimo sexto die Octobris ultimo preterito habere fecit prefato J. C. plenariam seisinam de tenementis predictis cum pertinentiis prout per breve illud sibi preceptum fuit, &c.

[*Recovery Roll, Michaelmas Term, 11 Charles I., 211, m. 29.*]

## (ii) *Chancery*.\*

Part of the jurisdiction claimed and exercised by Chancery arose, like that of the Exchequer (*vide infra*, p. 57), through the need to settle disputes between the Crown and a subject, or between the officers of the Crown and a subject. These cases are recorded in the *Placita in Cancellaria*.

Another large portion of the proceedings on the Common Law side of Chancery will be found under the heading of *Writs of Certiorari*, formerly known as *County Placita*. These originally formed a branch of the Chancery files. The proceedings relate to partitions of land between coparceners, assignments of dower, recognisances, grants of custody of land, questions arising out of petitions of right, and miscellaneous causes brought up from the Common Law Courts by *writ of certiorari*.

But there were other reasons for the Chancery acquiring

\* D. M. Kerly, *History of Equity*, 1890.



judicial powers. The Chancellor, after the abolition of the office of Justiciar, in 1234, became the King's chief legal adviser, and, as has been mentioned previously, it was already his duty as the head of the secretarial body of the King's clerks to issue all originating writs for actions to be begun in the courts of Common Law. The usual writs could be obtained as a matter of course upon payment of certain fees, but they did not cover all possible cases, and the Chancellor at first had the power to vary the terms, though after 13 Edward I. this was restricted and no new writs were allowed to be formulated except *in consimili casu*. There also arose cases in which for various reasons a person considered he could not obtain justice in the ordinary courts, and so he petitioned the King in Council, as a royal favour, to afford him relief. For it must always be recollected that in the King in Council lay the ultimate reserve of justice even after the delegation of judicial powers that has been considered above, and that this body bore very much the same aspect as the King's household of earlier days, for the King consulted whichever of his Ministers were at hand or whom he chose to summon. It was only natural, therefore, that it was upon the Chancellor, as the First Minister and the specially learned member of the Council (he was nearly always an ecclesiastic), that the duty of dealing with the points raised in these petitions gradually devolved. Later on such petitions were addressed directly to him, and led to his widening his jurisdiction beyond the disputes between Crown and subject. Moreover, during the fifteenth century the important custom of 'uses' had grown up. A gave lands to B to the use of himself or his heirs or of a third party C; his object in so doing being generally to escape certain legal liabilities or evade the statutes of mortmain. If B abused this trust, A had no remedy at Common Law, since B was the legal owner. It was only a question of moral right; but when A petitioned the King in Council for a remedy, the Chancellor, as an ecclesiastic and probably versed in Canon and Roman law, was quite willing, on conscientious grounds, to enforce the 'use,' and this

practice not only attracted much litigation to the Chancery, but was the foundation of its equitable jurisdiction.

The typical writ issued in equity cases was that known as the *subpœna*. In common law the process stated the matter at issue, but in equity the defendant was called before the Chancellor, with no reason assigned, under heavy penalties for disobedience. There is some difficulty in dating these proceedings in equity, as they were headed only by the Chancellor's name.\*

*To the Ryght Honorable Sir Christopher Hatton, of the most noble order of the Garter, knyght, Lord Chauncellor of England.*

"In moste humble wyse compleyninge sheweth unto your good Lordeshipp your dayly Orator George Delahaye of Watringbury in the county of Kent, Esquier," that whereas Nevill Delahaye, esquire, his father was in the fourth year of her Majesty's (Queen Elizabeth) reign lawfully possessed of and in the manor of Watringbury for the term of fifty years, and in that year "did demise and to farme lett" to Thomas Dedukes, alias Claye of Watringbury, yeoman, "all those his mylls and cornemylls, called Bowe mylls, with all streames, dykes, water courses, pondes, Dammes, landes, wayes and lanes," and all other appurtenances of the mill, and five pieces of land, called Eastbrookes, Brookefeild and Moltmeade . . . . Wylmottes and Fardinges" in Watringbury and parcel of the manor, for forty four years for the yearly rent of £4 6s. 8d. On the decease of Thomas Dedukes the unexpired term of the lease came to Edward Jarvis, who makes £10 profit at least over and above the rent, "and hath within this three yeeres laste past felled overmuch Coppies woodes and tymber uppon the premisses as ys att the leaste worth forty poundes." The rent was paid until about ten years ago, when "the said Nevill purchased the Inherytance of the said manour," which on his death came to George, the complainant, charged with the payment of certain sums and legacies; but Edward Jarvis "doth contrary unto all good consyence and equety detayne the said Rent . . . . alleadginge that he is not bound by the strickt Course of the Common lawes to paye the said Rent, because that the said N. D. did by his said purchase of th'enherytance of the said mannor drowne the said Auncyent Reversyon and the rentes reserved uppon the said Leasse." Wherefore, because the complainant is without all remedy by the strict course of the common law, he prays for a writ of *Sub-pœna* to be directed unto the said Edward Jarvis, commanding him to appear personally in her Majesty's High Court of Chancery.

\* Selden Society, *Select Cases in Chancery*, ed. W. P. Baildon, 1896.



*The Answer of Edward Jerves, defendant, to the Bill of Complaint of George Delahay, complainant.*

"The said Defendant by protestacion saith that the Bill of Complaint is insufficient in the Lawe and the matters therein conteyned devised to vexe this defendant without just cause." He admits that Nevill Delahaye was possessed of the manor of Watringbury and demised certain portions to one Thomas Dedukes as above, after whose death the unexpired term came to him Edward Jarvis as the husband of Margaret, daughter and heir of the said T. D. and his wife, Thomasine, and that he took the profits, but not to the extent alleged in the bill of complaint; nor was the timber felled in excess. The rent was at first paid by Thomasine, but on N. D. threatening to sue her under a certain obligation of £20, by which her late husband was bound, she "being a woman sole and fearefull" requested him to deal with the said N. D. and compound with him. This he accordingly did, being ignorant of the truth of the case, for as N. D. had before this purchased as he thought the reversion in fee of the manor of Watringbury, he "by his owne acte determynd the said Reversion of the Terme and by the extinguishing of the said Reversion determined in Lawe . . . the said rent," and further "had of the defendant in manner as is aforesaid the some of fortie poundes contrarie to all Right, equitie and good conscience," the truth of all which matters "this defendant ys readie to avowe and prove as this honorable Court shall award. and prayeth to be dismissed with his costes and damages for his wrongefull vexacion in this behalfe had and susteyned."

[*Chancery Proceedings, Series II., Bundle 224/2 (abbreviated).*]

(ii) *Exchequer*.\*

The judicial records of the Exchequer fall into three groups: (i) the records of Revenue cases, (ii) the records of common law cases, (iii) the records of equity cases.

The jurisdiction of the Exchequer in Revenue cases is, as might be expected, the oldest, for when there was no clear idea of differentiation of functions it was only natural that the Exchequer officials should decide litigious questions arising out of matters connected with the royal revenue. Disputes, therefore, between the Crown and the taxpayer, and between the Crown and its accountants came within its purview. There were certain peculiarities of procedure, known as *cursus scaccarii*, a combination of common law and

\* W. S. Holdsworth, *History of English Law, op. cit.*



equity forms which furnished the parties with a summary means of asserting their rights as against the Crown, and of having the matter decided at once by the court.

Its jurisdiction as a common law court (*i.e.*, Exchequer of Pleas held before the Treasurer and Barons) was in part the outcome of that claimed in fiscal matters and in part of its connection with the Curia Regis. It was not until 1234 that the judges were called Barons. From the time of Edward I. it was tending to become a court which could be classed with the common law courts (see sub-section (i)), and various efforts were made to restrict it in holding common pleas to those cases in which the Crown or an Exchequer official was concerned. In all such cases it had established its right to exclusive jurisdiction as early as the time of Henry II. The king, however, could give leave to particular persons to bring their suits to recover debts into the Exchequer. The Crown also enjoyed the privilege of requiring payment from the debtor of a debtor, and from the debtor of that debtor, apparently *ad infinitum*. It was this privilege which, on the various attempts to curtail the jurisdiction of the Exchequer over common pleas, formed the basis of its resistance and gave rise to a fiction by which a plaintiff, who wished to sue for breach of contract or other injury suffered, was supposed to be a debtor or an accountant of the Crown, so that unless he gained his cause he was the less able to satisfy the Crown (*quo minus sufficiens existit*). It was in its procedure that the power of the Exchequer to retain and even to enlarge its sphere must be looked for, when really the development and definition of the rights of the common law courts might have been expected to overshadow it. The *subpœna* was used on this common law side in civil actions, and apparently no fines were payable to the king in respect of any writ or process sued out of the court, but by 48 George III. "every writ, mandate or other process not otherwise charged issueing out or passing the seal of any of the Courts of Westminster" was subject to a stamp duty of 5s.

Although possessed of some equitable powers, as seen in the exercise of the *cursus scaccarii*, it was not until Tudor

times, when they were enlarged and defined by an act of 3 Henry VIII., that the Exchequer was recognized as a court of equity, which was only abolished in 1842. The procedure was by Bill and Subpœna, and the fiction of *quo minus* was used on this side also to bring the case within the court. If the defendant were served with a writ, that was returnable *immediate*, he was bound to appear the next day after service.

Appeals on the equity side lay to the House of Lords and on the common law and revenue side to the Court of Exchequer Chamber. Under this latter name two courts may be distinguished: (1) A court established by 31 Edward III. to hear errors in the Exchequer, since the barons always denied that the Court of King's Bench had power to amend errors in the Exchequer; (2) a Court hearing appeals from the King's Bench. This was an old practice by which cases of difficulty occurring in the common law courts might be adjourned to be argued before all the judges and barons in the Exchequer Chamber. Judgment was then given in the court where proceedings had begun.

Abbas de Lesnes attachiatus ad respondendum regi de placito transgressionis. Et unde Radulphus de Broghton' qui sequitur pro rege dicit quod predictus abbas tempore quo prioratus sancte Trinitatis Londonie fuit in manu regis post mortem prioris ejusdem loci prostravit et prosterni fecit quoddam fossatum in villa de Lesnes quod diutinis temporibus in vita predicti prioris sancte Trinitatis ut in feodo et dominio ejusdem prioris factum erat et levatum et post modo ibidem viam fecit in contemptu regis et [ad] dampnum, etc.

Et predictus abbas venit et defendit injuriam et quicquid, etc., et dicit precise quod nunquam hi[c] fossatum prostravit nec prosterni fecit nec aliquam viam ibi fecit nec etiam transgressionem aliquam fecit. Et hoc petit quod inquiratur. Ideo preceptum est quod venire faciat xij, etc., tam milites, etc., in quindena sancti Michaelis ad certificandum, etc. Ad quem diem inquisitio venit per Adam Totthand et alios prout patet, etc., juratores, qui dicunt super sacramentum suum, quod predictus abbas nec per se nec per alium quencunque aliquod fossatum levavit seu prostravit tempore predicto nec aliquam transgressionem fecit. Ideo consideratum est quod predictus abbas eat inde quietus, etc.

[*Exchequer of Pleas. Plea Roll, No. 19, 21/2 Edward 1., m. 14 d.*]



Alexander Harang attachatus ad respondendum Johanni de Cobham et Gilberto de Roffa et sociis suis ex executoribus testamenti Salamonis de Roffa defuncti qui in diversis debitis regi tenebatur die quo obiit de xxvij marcis quas idem Alexander debuit predicto defuncto pro firma ecclesie sue de Cocklestane et de xx marcis quas debuit eidem defuncto pro firma manerii sui de Wykham et quas eis injuste detinet ad dampnum, etc. Et predictus Alexander venit et recognovit se teneri in predictis xxvij marcis et etiam in xx marcis pro firmis supradictis de quibus reddet eis medietatem ad festum Pentecostes anno regni regis Edwardi xxij et aliam medietatem ad festum Omnium Sanctorum proxime sequens. Et nisi fecerit concedit quod de terris et catallis suis fiant, etc. Et ad instantiam eorundem executorum preceptum est vicecomiti Kancie quod de bonis et catallis predicti Alexandri in predicto manerio de Wykham liberam inde administracionem predicto Alexandro habere permittant, etc.

[*Ex. of Pleas. Plea Roll, No. 19, 21/2 Edward I., m. 73.*]

(iv) *The Star Chamber and The Court of Requests.*

The jurisdictions exercised by these courts give further examples of certain classes of cases, which, not being effectively dealt with by those already in existence, led to the establishment of distinct tribunals, at first merely committees, as it were, of the 'King in his Council.' The Court of Star Chamber was in its origin prerogative rather than statutory, although the latter title has been claimed for it by the Act *Pro camera stellata* (Henry VII.).\* Its chief object was to remedy the social disorganisation caused by the Wars of the Roses, and so its proceedings give an interesting picture of the social economy of the age. At first chiefly concerned with criminal affairs, questions of riot and assault, with the growing peacefulness of the country under the later Tudors it turned its attention to the regulation of trade, especially in food-stuffs. The procedure in early days was summary and was intended to accelerate justice for poor men when opposed by powerful nobles.

Unfortunately in after times the methods of the Star Chamber led to great abuses; it became a political court which the king used as an instrument to enable him to rule

\* The question is well treated in *Select Cases in the Star Chamber*, edited by I. S. Leadam for the Selden Society.



without a parliament. It thus gained the infamous reputation which led to its final abolition by the Long Parliament.

To the Kyng and Queenes most excellent Majestic.

"In most humble wyse Complayning sheweth unto your most excellent Majesties . . . . John Byer of Dertford . . . . gentylman and Randulf Taylor . . . . yeoman of the Queen's Chamber, that whereas Elizabeth Cressener, late prioress of the late dissolved Monastery of Dertford," was seised in and of nine acres, with their appurtenances, in a field called Highfield, in Dartford, and had "taken the issues and profyts thereof without lett or interruption" demised these nine acres with the assent of the convent in the twenty eighth year of Henry VIII. to Richard Flynte of Dartford, Innholder, for the term of 22 years for the yearly rent of £4 4s.; on the dissolution of the Monastery "by force of an Acte of Parlyament" the reversion of the said nine acres came into the possession of the late King, who was seised thereof in demesne as of fee, and he, by his Letters Patent sold it to John Byer and his heirs. From Richard Flint the nine acres passed to his wife Margery, who afterwards married John Gamble. He sold the whole estate, interest and term of years to John Tompson, and from him it passed to his wife Margaret, and by her will it passed to her executors, James Goldwell and Christopher Brett, who sold it to John Thorpe. From J. T. the estate passed to his wife Johanna and by her subsequent marriage to Bardulph Taylor, one of the suppliants, "who was and yett is thereof lawfully possessed," and John Byer occupies the land at the will of B. T. Nevertheless Thomas Baume, late of Northfleet, gentleman, Robert Barlay, late of Eastwell, and two others "with dyvers others disordered mysruled and ryotous persones" eight in number, not only on the 8<sup>th</sup> August in the second and third years of Philip and Mary, but also Thomas Baume "with dyvers light, evell disposed and ryotous persones unlawfully assembled together of dyvers and sondry contreys to the number of xx." on 13<sup>th</sup> July last past "about the howre of one of the cloke after Mydnyght . . . . with grete force and strong powre, thatt is to say with horses, moryspykes, Javelyns, swords, buklers, bylles, pycheforkes, dagars and other maner of Weapons defensyve beyng caryed in a cart with them in maner of Warfare and of newe insurreccion" entered on the nine acres, destroyed the standing crops and assaulted John Byer's servants and "dyd ther contynewe remayne and make ther abode by the space of fyve howres and more and wold in no wyse departe from ther before they were removed and repulse gyven unto them" by the constables and other "substantyall inhabitants of the sayd Town." Therefore the Complainants pray that Thomas Baume and the others may be summoned before the Court of Star Chamber there to make answer, and they will ever pray, etc.

The answer of Thomas Baume is that the "Bill of Complaynt ys uncerten . . . . and that longe tyme before the surmysed tytyle of

the seyde Defendants . . . or the seyde Elizabeth Cressener . . . one George Nevyle, Knight late lord of Burgavenny" and others were seised of and in the manor of Charles, of which the nine acres in dispute are parcel, to the use of one Edmund Baume, esquire, and of his heirs. E. B. bequeathed the manor to John Petytt, for term of life with remainder to his own heirs. E. B. had issue Jane. J. P. entered into possession by sufferance of the co-tenants, George Nevyl &c. and sold the land to the Prioress for the term of his life, and at his death, Jane, the daughter of E. B., entered into possession and married Henry Stafford; they had issue one son, the defendant, who entered in peacefully without "that that Prioress did demise," etc., traversing the bill of Complaint, "all which matters the seyde defendant is redy to aver and prove as thys honourable Courte shall awarde and prayeth to be dysmysed out of thys honourable Courte with hys Reasonable costes and charges for hys wrongfull vexacyon susteyned yn that behalfe."

The replication of John Byer is, that "hys seid bill of Complaynt ys certen true and sufficient in the lawe to be answered unto" and all things there contained: "he barreth and mayneteyneth and prayeth hys judgement for the seid nine acres with his costes" and he traverses statement of defendant concerning ownership of the land.

Thomas Baume makes rejoinder "that as well the seyde bill of Complaynt as the seyde replycacyon and every of them were uncerten, untrew and insuffeycent yn the law to be replied unto," and he maintains all and everything contained in his answer to be good and true and traverses the replication and "prayeth as he before yn hys seyde answeere hathe prayed."

Certain interrogatories or questions on the facts of the case were then drawn up and put to the defendants and witnesses, who answered on oath. The interrogatories and answers in this case are appended to the original documents.

[*Star Chamber Proceedings, Philip & Mary, Bundle IX., No. 52 (abbreviated).*]

The Court of Requests has been called the twin sister of the Court of Star Chamber, for it was constituted for civil cases, and at first, like the latter, was concerned in remedying the social disturbances caused by the Wars of the Roses. A statutory origin was not claimed for it. At first it followed the King's person, but in time became stationary; it dealt very largely with cases of copyhold tenure. It was a court of equity for poor men's causes, and the procedure was by petition followed by replication, rejoinder, etc., by commission under the Privy Seal to Magistrates of a neighbourhood to try the case and settle it or report to the Council. This



resulted in a set of interrogatories being drawn up upon which the parties were examined and judgment then given.

For details and discussion of the problems connected with the jurisdiction of this court see Selden Society, *Select Cases in Court of Requests*, edited by I. S. Leadam. As is there pointed out, the difficulty of consulting these records lies in the fact that they are not yet thoroughly sorted out and arranged, and in many instances the scattered portions of the cases have to be collected.

To the Queenes Most excellent Majestie :

"In most humble wyse complayninge sheweth unto your most excellent Majestie your very dutifull and obedient subjecte and suppliant Samuell Lennarde, gent." that whereas he and his father John Lennard of Knole, Kent, purchased "by good and sufficient conveyance in the lawe" of Sir William Heydon, son and executor to Sir Christopher Heydon, the manors of West Wickham, Baston, South Court and Keston with their appurtenances, including all "Courte rolles, Rentalles, bookes of accomptes and other evidences whatsoever touchinge or concerninge the said manor or any of them," of which Samuel Lennard "now standeth lawfullie seised," divers material, court rolls, etc., have come into the possession of one Anthony Calthorpe, citizen of London, partly because he was at one time bailiff and receiver of the revenues of the said manors, and partly "by casual meanes;" nor will A. C. give up the court rolls, etc. Therefore, because the complainant "hath noe remedie by the course of the common lawes of this your Realme to recover the saide Courte rolles, etc." and neither "knoweth the certeine number, date nor contentes of the same nor whether they be in Boxe or Chest or other place locked or sealed, or unlocked or open," he prays for a writ of privy seal to be directed to A. C. commanding him to appear before the council of the Court of Requests on "a certeine day and under a certeine paine therein to be limited and appoynted then and theare . . . to aunsweare, etc."

Endorsed: Fiat breve de P. S. directum parti defendantis ad comparendum in octabis Michaelis proxime subpœna C. li.\*

The answer of Anthony Calthorpe is to the effect that the complainant has only the rent of the freeholders in the manors "as a seignory in grosse and no mannor," and that the demesne lands of the manors were sold before the complainant's purchase, part to the defendant and part to one Thomas Stephens. That Sir Christopher Heydon conveyed to the defendant and his heirs "the capitall mesuage farm and sute" of the manor of Baston, with about 300 acres belonging to it and several "incloses of wood

\* The bill of complaint is in the same form as in Chancery Equity Proceedings.

groundes" (600 acres) belonging to West Wickham, Southcourt and Keston, and the grant included "all deedes, chirographs, evidences, escriptes, terriers, copies of Court Rolles, bookes of accomptes, Rentalls, wrytinges and mynuments" in Sir C. H.'s possession and concerning "the saide premisses." The defendant denies being bailiff, except for one year, when he was appointed to receive certain sums of money from one Thomas Philipps.

Samuel Lennard in his "Replicacion" maintains the statements made in his bill of complaint, and traverses the defendant's statement that Sir C. H. granted him the deeds, etc. He maintains that only those concerning Baston (the estate conveyed) were given to him, and then only for him to have copies made at his own charge, the right and interest in them being reserved to Sir C. H., who then sold them to the complainant and his father. He further maintains that the defendant was bailiff, and in that way obtained possession of the documents; also that there are copyholders as well as freeholders on his estate, and that the defendant's son holds an acre of his manor of Keston by fealty and suit of court, which is being withheld, and that he, the complainant, could prove his right to this better if he had possession of the rentals, etc.

[*Court of Requests, Proceedings. Elizabeth, Bundle 26, No. 62 (abbreviated).*]

#### (v) *High Court of Parliament and Privy Council.*

Under this heading there remain just a few words to be said in connection with the reserve of justice which has been repeatedly said to rest with the 'King in his Council.' But in the time of Edward I. this body underwent a change in name; it became known as the 'King in his Council in his Parliament' and separated off into two bodies, one of which was eventually called the Privy Council and the other the Parliament, but both inherited certain judicial functions.

At first the Parliament was an assembly in which the Commons were not represented; it was practically the House of Lords in which the King sat with the Chancellor, the Treasurer, the Judges and other experts, and, as Professor Maitland says, it might be described as "an afforced meeting of the King's Council." When in process of time the Commons gained admission, it was merely as granters of taxes, and afterwards, though they gradually improved their position, they never obtained any share in the judicial work,



which definitely remained inherent in the House of Lords. The jurisdiction so exercised is of three kinds:—

1. The House of Lords is a court of trial for peers accused of felony.

2. It developed the right of entertaining accusations against both peers and commoners when proposed by the House of Commons, a process known as impeachment.

3. It has a jurisdiction in error over all lower courts, and it is from this point of view that its records may have to be consulted. For the mediæval period these will be found illustrated on the Parliament rolls and Parliamentary proceedings, and for the later, in the Papers of the House of Lords.

The jurisdiction acquired or inherited by the Privy Council is vague, but it continued to exemplify the theory that the reserve of justice lay always with the King. It has been seen from the previous subsection how its judicial committees became in many cases independent courts, such as the Court of Star Chamber and the Court of Requests. After the abolition of the former, for the next two centuries the various committees of the Council, including a Committee on Appeals, transacted both administrative and judicial business; the judicial proceedings, therefore, of the Council from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries must be sought for among the current administrative records of the department.

Sir Harris Nicolas, in his Introduction to *The Proceedings and Ordinances of the Privy Council*, says that it is difficult to name any class of muniments that afford such valuable illustration of every branch of history. "There was scarcely a department of State that was not in a greater or less degree subject to its immediate control; no rank was too exalted or too humble to be exempt from its vigilance, and its decision was the ultimate remedy for every grievance for which the Common Law courts could not provide."

There was no formal procedure, and although Parliament was at some periods inclined to restrict the powers of

the Council, at others it was glad to acknowledge that it had a sphere of jurisdiction. The statutes of *Præmunire* and *Provisors* were enforceable by the Council, and, later on, justices not carrying out the Statute of Labourers could be punished at its discretion.

The kind of information that may be expected to be found in these judicial records can be easily summarised. They afford much valuable addition to the knowledge of everyday life during the periods to which they refer: they give particulars of a man's land, of his occupations and of his character. Where there is a question about land, in many cases the field names and boundaries are given very clearly, and this should gladden the heart of the local historian. The genealogist also will appreciate the lists of jurors' names and those of the *essoins* and attorneys. Finally, on the rolls of the itinerant justices will be found many examples of Kentish customs in actual practice. The social and economic interest of the records of the Star Chamber and the Court of Requests has already been dwelt upon.

## B.—ECCLESIASTICAL RECORDS.

Under this heading there are three classes of documents to be mentioned. Of these, two are similar in kind to those already dealt with. First there are the royal and private grants, as charters, letters patent and so on, granting or confirming the secular power and temporal possessions of the church or her ministers; and secondly, there are all the records connected with the administration of these possessions. As would be expected from the known great influence of the church in the mediæval State, these cover a wide range of subjects and are of much interest. Amongst this class will be grouped deeds, charters and chartularies (which often include extents and inquisitions), bishops' registers (see Part II., *sub* Registry of the Diocese of Rochester), accounts of the bailiffs and stewards of church manors, and



the court rolls. Many of these documents came into official custody at the dissolution of the monasteries, and may be found in the collection of court rolls and ministers' accounts, and among the records of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners deposited in the Public Record Office. Other places of deposit are mentioned in Part II.

The third class of documents is the outcome of the exercise of a wide spiritual jurisdiction. As leader of the moral world the Church and her ministers claimed to exercise supervision *pro salute animæ* over clerics and laity in matters of conscience, while they naturally asserted complete jurisdiction in all cases where a clerk was concerned, besides exclusive cognizance of matters by their nature ecclesiastical, as consecration, ordination and the like. Their claim to criminal jurisdiction ('benefit of clergy') over felonious clerks was, as is well known, vainly disputed by Henry II., and during the fourteenth century there were many attempts to define the exact extent of ecclesiastical jurisdiction. The right of spiritual courts to deal with all matrimonial suits was never questioned by the common law; the mediæval courts had no doctrines on this point. In the same way the Church acquired a jurisdiction over all testamentary cases, and tried to extend this to cases of perjury or unfulfilled contract, because that implied breach of faith, and therefore was a moral wrong. In addition to 'perjuries' the jurisdiction of courts Christian over laymen, as may be gathered from Archdeacon Hale's *Precedents and Proceedings in Criminal Causes* (1475-1640), covered cases of defamation of character, sexual offences, offences against clerks, brawling in church, lying in bed during matins, and cases of heresy, schism, apostacy and witchcraft. In fact, the 'Act-books' of the episcopal and archidiaconal courts give a history of the "moral police of the Church," shewing how men ordinarily offended against religious discipline. On the civil side there also came under the purview of the Church courts the recovery of tithes and dues, matters concerning the fabrics and ornaments of churches, and the administration of pious gifts. The King's courts, on the

other hand, retained exclusive jurisdiction in regard to all realty, whether temporal or spiritual, and it must be remembered that real property did not come under testamentary disposition in the mediæval period. Moreover, from the thirteenth century, despite the doctrine of canon law, causes relating to church lands, which previously had been tried in the ecclesiastical courts, were transferred to the King's courts, which also claimed jurisdiction in questions of title to present to, and possession of, benefices; advowsons being regarded as a species of real property. It was to maintain this jurisdiction in the royal courts against Papal agents who ignored or impugned it that the famous statutes of Provisors and Præmunire were framed.

Where the State admitted the church's jurisdiction, it supported her sentences of excommunication by imprisonment of the excommunicate, but the fact that appeal from the ecclesiastical courts lay ultimately to the Roman Curia was always a thorn in the side of authority.

With the dawn of the modern era and the Reformation the Church lost much of her power, for the common law and equity courts had developed remedies for many of the cases which at first had only been relieved in courts Christian and under canon law.

There existed a whole hierarchy of courts for the administration of ecclesiastical jurisdiction,\* and the records of any one of them are most likely to furnish the searcher with interesting data and facts. The normal court of first instance was the Bishop's Court, known in the diocese of Canterbury as the Commissary Court, presided over by the Commissary General of the city and diocese of Canterbury; and in the others as the Consistory Court, with the bishop's Official Principal as judge. These Courts decided all matrimonial and testamentary causes, and, by special commission, criminal cases also. The granting of licences and institution to benefices, and voluntary or uncontested cases generally,

\* See also *History of Church Courts in England to 1832*, by the late Bishop Stubbs, Historical Appendix I. to Report of Commissioners on Constitution and Working of Ecclesiastical Courts, 1883.



seem to have been decided by another official, the Vicar-general. Such records as are extant will generally be found in the Cathedral Archives or offices of the Bishop's Registrar, but there are no episcopal registers of earlier date than the thirteenth century.

Side by side with the Consistory Court, and having in early times concurrent and independent jurisdiction, was the Archdeacon's Court, but the Constitutions of Clarendon in 1164 gave a right of appeal from the court of the archdeacon to that of the bishop. The records of the Court of the Archdeacon of Canterbury are preserved at Canterbury.

Then there were the Provincial Courts of Canterbury and York, known respectively as the Court of Arches and the Chancery Court, to which appeal lay from the diocesan Consistory Courts. In the case of Canterbury distinction must be drawn between the diocesan and the metropolitan or provincial courts, and also between the latter and the court of the archbishop acting as Papal Legate.

The Provincial Court of Arches, to which appeal lay from the Consistory Courts of the province, was presided over by the archbishop's Official Principal, better known as the Dean of Arches (see below, p. 70). The present dean (Sir Lewis Dibdin) is engaged in overhauling the records of this court, which, it is hoped, will be made available for research. Covering the period from 1660 to 1856, they contain matters relating to testamentary and matrimonial cases, to the morals and ecclesiastical duties of the clergy and laity, and to the control of church fabrics, officers and endowments. Besides being of legal interest, "their historical value as pictures of English life and manners in former times is difficult to exaggerate."

The archbishop also had his Prerogative Court, his Court of Audience and his Court of Peculiars. The first named was a court of first instance which took cognizance of cases of 'perplexity,' such as the testamentary disposition of the *bona notabilia* of a person whose property lay in more than one diocese, so that it could not be dealt with in the diocesan courts. In the Court of Audience the archbishop himself

sat, or was represented by an auditor, to hear causes which he reserved to his own decision, or which came before him as Papal Legate, either in the first instance or on appeal. Appeals to Rome, however, in important cases were generally carried to Rome, or were heard in England by judges delegate specially appointed. The feudal tendency to delegate powers to any considerable landowners gave rise to the Peculiar Courts, for abbeys and priories were exempt from episcopal control and enjoyed a jurisdiction co-ordinate with that of the Bishop, with privilege of appeal to Rome. Peculiar jurisdiction was also granted to deans and chapters, and in some cases to prebendaries, in respect of the places where their property lay, with appeal to the Metropolitan. The archbishop also had peculiars lying within the dioceses of his comprovincials wherever he had a residence or manor. Thus he had jurisdiction in the diocese of London in thirteen parishes, which formed the Deanery of Arches, and in a number of parishes which were comprised in the deanery of Shoreham in the diocese of Rochester. An appeal from the Dean of Arches, who presided originally in the Court of Peculiars, lay to the Official Principal of the Provincial Court, which was held in the same place, the Church of St. Mary le Bow (*de Arcubus*). Some confusion of thought arises from this identity of venue, and from the fact that in practice the office of Dean of Arches came to be held in conjunction with that of Official Principal; eventually the judge became known by the title of the less important of the combined offices. The records of the Court of Peculiars are preserved either at Somerset House or in local registers; those found in the Cathedral libraries would probably be 'appeals.'

It is not necessary to trace the numerous changes made in ecclesiastical jurisdiction in post-mediaeval and modern times. Suffice it to say that the 'ordinary' tribunals, *i.e.*, of the diocesan bishops, of the later middle ages still subsist, shorn of all power over the laity in criminal matters. Further should be noticed the creation at the Reformation of the Court of Delegates, a court of commissioners specially



appointed to hear each case, as it arose, of appeals that formerly went to Rome, and of the Court of High Commission, established by Elizabeth and abolished by the Long Parliament. This court was mainly occupied during its brief life with the partly ecclesiastical, partly political, offences of non-conformity and recusancy.

The methods of procedure in the ecclesiastical courts were: (1) by inquisition, when the judge was the accuser on information supplied by the apparitor; (2) by accusation, when an accuser came forward voluntarily; (3) by denunciation, when the person giving the information did not necessarily appear himself as accuser; this was later known as presentment.

The judges having proposed the articles of the charge, the accused had to admit or deny the accusation on oath. This was in great contrast to procedure in the lay courts, where no man was bound to accuse himself.

In testamentary cases in mediæval times the Church kept the whole administration of an estate under her eyes from the probate of the will until the final distribution of the property, and it is only necessary to glance at a few of the usual clauses in a will to see that here again a searcher has very valuable information at his hand. The directions for the funeral are often very elaborate, and there may be a large number of specific legacies giving in detail the various contents of a man's rooms, of his wardrobe and of his books; sometimes there are quaint personal touches, as when Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, leaves "a bason in which we are accustomed to wash our head."

In Dei Nomine, Amen. A<sup>o</sup> 1515, 27 Octobris, Ego Johannes Cheseman de Chesilhurste. Corpus meum ad sepeliendum in cimiterio de Chesilhurste. Summo altari *xxd.* Summo altari de Eltham *xxd.* Summo altari de Ligth (Lee) *xxd.* Lego le braunche pendentem coram crucifixo ecclesie de Cheslehurst *xijd.* Lumini Sancte Marie in medio ecclesie *vjd.* Lumini Sancte Marie in cornu altaris *vjd.* Lumini Sancti Christoferi *iiijd.* Lego Lumini Sancte Marie Magdalene *iiijd.* Residuum lego Thome Cheseman filio meo, executore meo.

This is the laste will of me John Cheseman I geue and graunto

unto Thomas Cheseman my son the house I dwell in, the barnes, orchardes, croftes, wodds, lands pertynyng to the same house to hym and his heires for evermore, that is to saye lande called Broklayes under the nue parkeside w<sup>t</sup> Codbrokenmyde & a grove of wodd that I purchased of Water Alen. To sayde Thomas my other howse over the Kyngs highth waye of the south partes the crofte the yarle w<sup>t</sup> a pece in the south felde, Woddens and Alens lands to strepe and to cutt by the grounde for the space of iij yeres. After iij yeres Roger Cheseman my son schall entre into the foresaid house of the south part of the Kyng's Highthwaye w<sup>t</sup> the yarde, crofte & pese of land in Southfelde w<sup>t</sup> Widdens and Alyns land.

Hiis testibus Sir Thos. Wodhouse, curate, Philip Holden, William Levendall, Nicholas Hodsoll.

Probatum fuit apud Dertford, ix Januarii 1515 (1516).

[Communicated by Leland L. Duncan, Esq.]

The value of wills has of course been fully recognized, as may be seen by the numerous publications of them, but there are still a good many that have not yet been made available in print. E. W. Marshall has published *A Handbook to Ancient Courts of Probate and Depositions of Wills*, which searchers will find useful, as it gives in tabular form the name of the court, the date at which records begin, and the present place of deposit.

From this slight sketch the value of these ecclesiastical records must be apparent, for they represent another source from which the local historian may collect materials for reconstituting the social life of the village, parish or town in which he is interested.

One other repository of documents relating to church administration remains to be considered—the parish chests, which are a mine of information, supplying here and there churchwardens' and overseers' accounts, terriers, old parish maps and a variety of other records, such as vestry minute books that are not without interest as giving one aspect of parochial life. The keeping of parish registers for the record of weddings, christenings and burials was instituted by an injunction of Thomas Cromwell, then vicar-general, in 1538. Originally the registers were paper books, but in 1597 it was ordered that parchment should be used on account of its more enduring qualities. The old paper registers were then



supposed to be copied into the new books and duplicates sent to the Bishops' registries. In many cases this was done only from 1558, according to the Constitutions and canon, and no account taken of any other entries than those of burials, baptisms and marriages. Information as to parish registers may be obtained from the work of A. M. Burke, 1908, which gives the date at which they begin in every parish, and a list of those of which transcripts have been printed. The Kent Archæological Society recently published information, collected for the Diocesan Conference by the Rev. W. E. Buckland, as to the records that lie in the custody of clergy and churchwardens in the diocese of Rochester, and a similar volume for the diocese of Canterbury is under consideration. Similar records, touching the history of individual parishes, may be looked for among the archives of the patrons in cases where the patronage is vested in the bishop or the dean and chapter.

### C.—MUNICIPAL AND MANORIAL RECORDS.

The Records hitherto described have been definitely connected with the Crown either in its private capacity as a landowner or in its official capacity as head of a centralised form of government. As the headings shewed, they were official instruments normally found in official custody (since the Record Act of 1838 chiefly at the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane) and abnormally in other repositories. Besides such records there exist two smaller classes which, although they practically contain no new forms, must yet be treated separately: Municipal and Manorial documents.

They are not official in the true sense, or rather their officiality is local; they are in fact the records of a delegated authority. The natural repository for such records is of course the place where the authority that produced them has its seat: the town hall for the borough and the manor house for the manor. Unfortunately they have been much scattered, so that now they may be found anywhere from a

public library like the British Museum to the stable loft of an old country house.

#### A. MUNICIPAL.

Among the records that might reasonably be expected to be found in municipal custody, there are two distinct classes of documents, viz. :—

(i) Royal originals or copies: documents emanating from the central authority delegating some power or conceding some privilege, as the right to form a guild, etc. They may be in the form of charters, letters patent or close, writs or even copies of pipe rolls shewing the accounts between the town and the Exchequer.

(ii) Records of the delegated authority in action, *i.e.*, documents resulting from the municipal administration. These will comprise :

a. *Deeds and grants of corporation leases* similar in form to the royal charter (*vide p. 5 et seq.*).

b. *Chamberlain's assessment books, Poll tax assessment books, Books of murage*: these are in the nature of extents, surveys, etc. (*vide p. 18 et seq.*). Accounts under the names of the various municipal officers, as accounts of Town Clerk, Chamberlain, Mayor and Jurats. All these are of great interest for social and economic history, and from them a complete picture can be drawn of town life in the centuries for which they have survived. Unfortunately there are very few for the Middle Ages, but the series usually become fuller from the sixteenth century onwards.

c. *Jurats Court books, records of Court of Record, of the Hundred Court, of the Burghmote or Mayor's Court*: these illustrate matters relating to jurisdiction. The cases deal with contravention of rules of trade, actions of debt and trespass, and counterparts of fines will also be found.

The actual process of administration is revealed in *Minute books*, variously termed *Assembly session books, Orders of wardmotes, Burghmote books*. A *Custumal*, where it exists, sums up the different privileges, rights and duties of the town and its burgesses.



## B. MANORIAL.

Among manorial records there are also two classes to be distinguished :—

- (i) Royal originals or copies, containing grants on which the exercise of the various franchises depended ;
- (ii) Documents produced as a result of such delegated authority.

Although bearing different names these documents are similar in form to those already described. Such likeness was due partly to feudalism, which made each manor a reflection in miniature of the royal administration, and partly, as previously stated, to the fact that the knowledge of writing was confined in the mediæval period to one class, and by the time education had become more general the form of records was fixed. Thus in place of royal charters are found *private charters, deeds,\* leases, quitclaims and surrenders*. Many of these are often found enrolled among official records, either because the estate to which they are the title-deeds had escheated or forfeited to the Crown, or because they were put in as exhibits in cases of litigation, or enrolled for sake of perpetuity or as information for departmental officers.

*Enrolment of Grant and Release.*

Willelmus Eymer venit in curia hic die Mercurii in quindena sancti Johannis Baptiste et cognovit hoc scriptum subsequens esse factum suum Et petit illud irrotulari Et irrotulatur in hec verba.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos presens scriptum pervenerit Willelmus Eymer, salutem in Domino. Noveritis me concessisse et hoc presenti scripto pro me et heredibus meis confirmasse Henrico Jory de Acholte et heredibus suis et suis assignatis quemdam annum redditum viginti quatuor quarteriarum ordeï palmal' (?)

\* Previous to the practice which put a term to the period beyond which it was not necessary to produce title-deeds dealing with land, these deeds were cherished and preserved in valuable and unbroken series, but being now of no particular legal value many have unfortunately been scattered or burned. Some happily have drifted into the Public Record Office, where they are found amongst "Ancient Deeds."

capiendum et percipiendum annuatim ad festum Omnium Sanctorum & ad festum Purificationis Beate Marie Virginis, per equales porciones, imperpetuum de uno mesuagio quadraginta acris terre cum pertinentiis in Moneketon' in Insula de Taneto, de quibus tenementis placitum convencionis summonitum fuit apud Westmonasterium, termino sancti Michaelis anno regni regis Edwardi filii regis Edwardi, vicesimo, coram Hervico de Staunton et sociis suis tunc justiciariis de Banco, inter predictum Willelmum Eymer querentem et Michaellem Noldyn et Isabellam uxorem ejus deforciantes. Et ego predictus Willelmus Eymer concedo pro me et heredibus meis quod predictus Henricus et heredes sui et sui assignati distringere possint in predictis tenementis et in qualibet parte eorundem quocienscunque et quodocunque predictus redditus in parte vel in toto ei seu eis aretro fuerit et districtiones retinere quousque de areragiis predicti redditus plenarie fuerit satisfactum ad quoruncunque manus predicta tenementa devenerint. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum meum est appensum. Datum apud Acholte die Martis proxima post festum sancti Johannis ante Portam Latinam anno regni regis Edwardi a conquestu tertii primo.

Henricus Jory de Acholte venit in Curia hic die Mercurii in quindena sancti Johannis Baptiste et cognovit hoc scriptum subsequens esse factum suum. Et petiit illud irrotulari. Et irrotulatur in hec verba.

A touz iceux qe ceste lettre verront ou orront ieo Henry Jory de Acholte, salutz. Cum William Eymer seit tenutz et par luy et ses heires oblige a moy et a mes heires et a mes assignes en une annuyte de vynt et quatre quarters d'orge a prendre et resceyuere de un mies et qarant acres de terre en Moneketon' en le Île de Tanet perdurablement. Sachent touz iceux qe ieo lauand dit Henry grante per ceste presente letire qe si lauand dit William ou ses heires payent a moi ou a mes heires trent et siz lj. a la feste seynte Lucye prochaine ensuant apres la confeccion de cest escript adonques lauanddit William et ses heires soient quitz de lauanddit annuite de vynt et quatre quarters dorge et lescrip obligatore de lauanddit annuite seit tenu pur nul et voide. Issi nepur grant qe si William ou ses heires faillent de la soute de trent et siz li. auantdit au iour auantdit adonques lescrip obligatore del annuite auantdit estoyse en sa force. En tesmoygnance de quele chose ieo ay mys mon seal. Done a Westmonstre le Mekerdy prochain apres la feste de la translacion seynt Thomas le Martir lan du regne le roy Edward tierce pus le conquest premiere.

[*De Banco Roll* 270, m. 121d.]

The royal inquisition is replaced by a survey on the lord's behalf of his manorial possessions. Accounts of his revenue and expenditure, both in money and in kind, were rendered



to him by his bailiff or steward, as the following extracts will shew:—

Compotus Thome atte Hohland Servientis de Brockesham a die Veneris proxima post festum sancti Nicholai anno regni regis Edwardi filii regis Edwardi xvij, usque festum sancti Michaelis proxime sequens, anno xix incipiente.

*Redditus assise*.—Idem respondet de vjs. vd. de redditu assise ad terminum sancti Thome Apostoli. Et de vijs. xjd. ob. de redditu assise ad terminum Natalis Domini. Et de xxv gallinis ad eundem terminum . . . . Summa lxvs. vd. ob. q<sup>a</sup>.

*Annuale donum*.—Idem respondet de iijs. iijd. q<sup>a</sup> de annuali dono ad terminum sancti Michaelis. Summa iijs. iijd. q<sup>a</sup>.

*Consuetudines*.—Idem respondet de ijs. de xxiiij messoribus. Et de iiijd. de viij hominibus coligentibus prata domini de consuetudine per 1 diem. Summa ijs. iiijd.

*Exitus Manerii*.—Idem respondet de vs. de pastura estivali vendita apud Stythynges. Et de xxd. [de] pastura gratis (?) apud Bodesmell vendita per dominum. Summa vis. viijd.

*Venditio bladi*.—Idem respondet de xiijs. vjd. de 1 quaterio vj busselis dimidia frumenti venditis. precium quaterii viijs. et non plus quia vestus (?). Et de vs. iiijd. de ij qr. avene hyemalis venditis precium quaterii ijs. viijd. . . . Summa xxxvijs. iiijd.

*Afferamentum Receptum*.—Idem respondet de xljs. vjd. receptis de Petro Belamy. Summa xljs. vjd.

Summa totius receptorum vij li. xvijs.

*Resoluciones redditus*.—In redditu resolutio apud Bromleggh per annum vs. jd. In redditu resolutio apud Dertteford per annum iijs. vjd.,\* quia per dominum xvijjd., ad iiij terminos principales . . . . Summa xixs. ixjd.

*Defectus redditus de tenementis existentibus in manu domini*.—In defectu redditus pro termino sancti Thome vjd., ut patet per particulas. Pro termino natalis Domini ijs. vid. ob. q<sup>a</sup> . . . .

Summa xvjs. ixjd. ob.

In defectu annualis doni ijs. ob. In defectu ix messorum ixjd. In defectu collectorum feni id. ob. quia terre sunt in manu domini.

Summa ijs. xid.

*Custus carucarum*.—In j pecia ferri empta ijd. pro ferramento caruce. In fonturis emptis pro dicto ferramento iijs. vd. ob. Solutio fabro in parte stipendii sui ijs. id. et dominus solvit eidem ijs. . . .

Summa xs. xid.

*Trituracio bladi*.—In lvij quateriis frumenti & curalli tritatis ad tascham xvjs. iiijd. pro q<sup>r</sup> iijd. ob. . . . In ventilacione tocins bladi et avene vs. viijd. pro ij q<sup>r</sup> id. Summa xxxvjs. viijd. ob.

*Minuta*.—In j semilen emptio ijd. ob, in ij ferris pro tribulo et 1 ferro pro vanga emptis iijd. . . . In viij vertinellis et viij gumphis emptis pro mua falconum vd. In factura j ligonis videlicet mattoe ijd. . . .

\* Over vjs. erased.

## Compotus Bladi.

*Fru mentum*.—Idem respondet de v q<sup>r</sup> v bu. frumenti de exitu de Brocham pro viij bu. rasa mensura per ij tallias contra Walterum atte More. Et de 1 q<sup>r</sup> 1 bu. 1 p<sup>c</sup> curalli eiusdem de eodem per easdem tallias . . . .

Inde liberavit Philippo coco pro expensis hospicii ix q<sup>r</sup> vj bu. frumenti per 1 talliam . . . . Idem liberavit Nicholao pistori pro dictis expensis xvij q<sup>r</sup> vi bu. di. frumenti per 1 talliam . . . . In panibus furnicis ad distribuendum pauperibus pro anima Margerie de Ifeld 1 q<sup>r</sup> frumenti sine tallia . . . . [Eque.]

*Ordeum*.—Idem respondet de iij q<sup>r</sup> iij bu. ordei receptis de Andrea Edrith preposito de Sondresse per 1 talliam . . . .

Summa xiiij q<sup>r</sup> vj bu.

Inde liberavit Philippo coco pro brasio faciendo ij q<sup>r</sup> per 1 talliam mixtilli ad commixta blada xij q<sup>r</sup> vi bu. ut inferius. Eque.

*Fabe*.—Idem respondet de ix q<sup>r</sup> iij bu. di. fabarum de exitu mensis qua prius per 1 talliam contra Petrum atte Hyde. Et de 1 bu. curalli ejusdem recepto de eodem per eandem talliam.

Summa ix q<sup>r</sup> iij bu. di.

Inde in semine super vj acras di. in Birechetfeld ij q<sup>r</sup> ij bu. super acram iij bu. . . . liberavit Philippo coco ad distribuendum pauperibus in estate 1 q<sup>r</sup> iij bu. di. per 1 talliam . . . . Item liberavit Philippo coco iij bu. fabarum per 1 talliam pro verro pinguendo . . . .

Eque.

*Pisa*.—Idem respondet de v q<sup>r</sup> di. pisarum de exitu mensis qua prius recepta per 1 talliam contra Petrum atte Hyde . . . .

Summa vj q<sup>r</sup>.

Inde in semine super 1 acram di. in Birchetfeld iij bu di. in vj acris et in Welfeld 1 q<sup>r</sup> vij bu. . . . [Eque.]

*Vesce*.—Idem respondet de ix q<sup>r</sup> v bu. vesearum de exitu mensis qua prius per 1 talliam contra Petrum atte Hyde . . . .

Summa xiiii q<sup>r</sup> 1 bu.

Inde in semine super viij acras in Reyfeld 1 q<sup>r</sup> vij bu . . . . liberavit Willelmo de Borghersch iij bu. vesearum per preceptum domini . . . . Eque.

*Avene hyemalis*.—Idem respondet de xiiij q<sup>r</sup> vij bu. avene hyemalis de exitu mensis qua prius, etc. . . . . Et de iij q<sup>r</sup> avene receptis de Willelmo Panhou ut patet per indenturam.

Summa xxv q<sup>r</sup> vj bu. di.

Inde liberavit Philippo coco pro farina facienda xi q<sup>r</sup> avene hyemalis per 1 talliam. Item liberavit Johanni Bates venatori pro canibus v q<sup>r</sup> . . . . Eque.

*Drauckes*.—Idem respondet de ix q<sup>r</sup> v bu. drageti de exitu mensis, etc. . . . . Et de iij q<sup>r</sup> drageti receptis de Thoma de Farlegh . . . .

Summa xii q<sup>r</sup> v bu.



Inde liberavit Johanni Bates venatori pro canibus j q<sup>r</sup> per talliam in qua talliantur avene mixte ad avenam pro prebenda xj q<sup>r</sup> v bu. Eque.

[*Extracts from Minister's Account in possession of H. W. Knocker, Esq., Sevenoaks.*]

The lord also held his courts for certain small offences and for the general regulation of his little kingdom. The matters dealt with there were equally suitable for record as were those of which the King's courts had cognizance.\*

Curia de Boxele tenta die Martis proxima ante festum Apostolorum Simonis et Jude Anno regni Edwardi filii regis Edwardi undecimo.

#### De communi secta.

Symon Godelin ij<sup>o</sup> per Johannem Massun.

Walterus Man per Johannem Bou.

Gilbertus Massun per Johannem Baus.

Amfridus Pik per Ricardum Batecok.

(And other names.)

Margareta que fuit uxor Thome ate Stone vadiavit relevium et fecit feoditatem pro terra que sibi accidit post mortem dicti Thome; et suscepit nutrituram predicta Margareta Johannis et Thome filiorum dicti Thome et invenit pleggios de salvo eisdem custodiendis Ricardum Hwater et Johannem de Woldeham. Non [*erased*] solvit xvjd. Et catalla nulla fuerunt super feodum nostrum.

Johannes Pertrich fecit feoditatem et vadiavit relevium suum pro terris et tenementis adquisitis cum Johanne filio Willelmi de Sengdenne. Et est relevium ij<sup>d</sup>. q<sup>a</sup>. Solvit.

Willelmus Birch recognovit in plena curia quod tenetur prout patet per quamdam talliam Johanni Marescallo de Maydenest' in j flet' de corticibus quereus et Roberto de Renham in j flet' et dimidia; et datus est sibi dies ad satisfaciendum eisdem citra proximam curiam, et nichilominus in misericordia. Non solvit.

Stephanus de Polebroke electus est per consideracionem curie ad colligendum et recipiendum Lottum et Scottum super Dennam de S<sup>t</sup>a ronele et hoc denanciet ei Bedellus.

Johannes Randulphus calumpniatus de secta detenta, idem presens, dicit quod non debet sectam et advocat warantiam suam. Et medium Robertus de Renham, qui presens, dicit et fatetur quod eundem Randulphum debet defendere, unde idem R. quoad dictam calumpniam quietus est.

\* The best account of these jurisdictions is to be found in F. W. Maitland's *Introduction to Select Pleas from Manorial Courts* and *The Court Baron*, published by the Selden Society.

Robertus Lunbuere venit ad curiam et sanavit defaultam factam in precedente curia et ponit se in misericordia. Idem calumpniatus de eo quod messuit bladum domini ultra metras et bundas constitutas appropriando sibi terram domini, presens non dedit et ponit se totaliter in misericordia domini.

Item preceptum est Bedello quod distringat Thomam Patin ad respondendum domino de eo quod in contemptum domini facit se Ballivum sine Waranto in tenura domini distringendo tenentes domini. Distringat melius inquirere.

Preceptum est Bedello quod distringat Johannem Swift [and others] pro destrucione et pro dampnis factis in avena domini per porcos suos.

[*P.R.O., Court Roll, 180/9.*]

Naturally all the information to be obtained from such documents is invaluable to the local historian as supplementing the knowledge he has gathered from the larger classes of official instruments. It is because they are so valuable, and should give the desired information in more compact and handy form, that in so many cases their loss or inaccessibility is to be deplored. The presence of some in the Public Record Office has already been explained as accidental, but it is a lucky accident that has made them at once accessible and central. So, too, some gaps may be filled up from the large collections of MSS. at the British Museum and other great libraries such as those of the two Universities. Then for Kent there are the ecclesiastical libraries of Lambeth, Canterbury and Rochester, and municipal collections which are accessible to searchers without undue impediment. To discover what documents are there contained and bring them to the notice of searchers is one of the objects of this Handbook.

But this still leaves a vast quantity of documentary evidence that must have existed at one time unaccounted for. Much is lost, but much possibly still exists in private hands, where it is inaccessible, alas, to the general student. The Historical MSS. Commission has cleared up some of the



dark places, but it is a well-known fact that a search in many a lawyer's room would reveal documents priceless in value to the antiquary. This is especially true of Kent, where the title-deeds to land are of extreme importance owing to the peculiarly lasting effect and influence of Gavelkind on the tenure of estates, and where, for this reason, they are so jealously guarded that, as far as the student is concerned, it would be less tantalising had they perished centuries ago. Possibly with the greater general interest now taken in this branch of study access to them may later on be obtained, and by transcribing and publishing they may be brought within reach of those who would use them for the elucidation of past history.

A step in this direction is about to be taken by the Kent Archæological Society: full details of the scheme, which aims at establishing a Kentish register of all documents in private possession in the county, is given in *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XXX., p. lxxvi *et seq.* Mr. H. W. Knocker, the Hon. Registrar, has also added a most interesting and useful description of the documents likely to be found in private hands.

### PALÆOGRAPHY.

Hitherto it is the form of the documents that has been studied, but, since the greater number of these are still unpublished, it is necessary to be able to read them in their original state. A few practical hints, therefore, as to how proficiency in palæography can be obtained may not come amiss. The art of reading old documents is not a difficult one to acquire; it is chiefly a matter of practice, and the study has been made somewhat easier of late years by the increased interest shewn in it. Several good handbooks have been produced which include facsimiles where the different forms of writing mentioned can be studied. Among these the beginner will find the following most useful, viz.: *History of English Handwriting*, A.D. 700—1400, by Sir Edward Maunde Thompson, in vol. iv. of the *Bibliographi-*

cal Society's Publications, 1901; the 10th edition of *Wright's Court Hand Restored*, edited by C. Trice Martin, 1912; and *Court Hand*, by H. Jenkinson and C. Johnson (in the Press). There is also a brief section on palæography (without facsimiles) in *Studies in English Official Documents* already cited. For further practice there are the facsimiles published by the New Palæographical Society, 1903, etc.; those of the Old Palæographical Society, edited by E. A. Bond and E. M. Thompson, Series I. and II., 1873-1894; *Facsimiles of Ancient Charters in British Museum*, 1873-8; *Facsimiles of National MSS.*, by the Ordnance Survey, edited by W. Basevi Sanders, 1865-8; *Facsimiles of Anglo-Saxon MSS.*, by the same; *Facsimiles of Royal and other Charters in British Museum, William I. to Richard I.*, 1903; and *Facsimile of Domesday Book*, by the Ordnance Survey.

The above are some of the best known series, and if proficiency is once attained in these the battle is practically won.

After a working acquaintance with the different hand-writings has been acquired, it is much easier to understand and appreciate the various theories that have been put forward as to the origin and development of writing in this country. Briefly the history is as follows. At the earliest period, according to Sir E. M. Thompson, there were two rival styles, the one native, introduced from Ireland, and an adaptation of old Roman half uncial, *i.e.*, a mixture of small and capital rounded letters; the other, which, however, soon disappeared, an uncial hand introduced by Roman missionaries. There followed the growth of the national writing of the Anglo-Saxon period, superseded in its turn by a foreign minuscule, a cursive form developed from the uncial. This was the time when England came into closer political contact with her European neighbours, and after the Norman conquest the history of English writing is a branch of the history of the writing of western Europe. The English hand of the later Middle Ages is a development of the Carlovingian minuscule hand cast in an English mould.



Domesday Book gives an example of the new official hand of England: the writing there used belongs to the class known as charter hand, and is slightly more cursive than book-hand. Thirteenth-century writing is exact and uniform, and is known as Gothic, but in the next century a more flowing style came into use. By the time of Richard II. a different sort of handwriting was employed for different classes of documents. That used for all records which issued from the Chancery was known as Set Chancery and Common Chancery, while in the Courts of King's Bench and Common Pleas, in law proceedings, a more cursive character was used known as Court hand. Finally in the sixteenth century English lawyers were wont to engross their conveyances and other legal instruments in a script known as Secretary.

All through the early period to the close of the Middle Ages the chief exponent of the art of writing was the Church, for education was altogether in her hands and this ensured a certain uniformity in the characters used. But with the dissolution of the monasteries and the secularisation of education following on the Reformation the art of writing was no longer confined to one class, and the individual handwritings as exemplified in the State Papers were gradually developed. But the quality of writing deteriorated, and with the introduction of printing there was no longer the need for the use of the beautiful book-hands of the preceding centuries.

One of the chief stumbling blocks to the beginner in the deciphering of old documents will be the capital letters. In some cases the same forms in different centuries represent different letters, for example the M of the thirteenth and the S of the fourteenth centuries are identical. The differences in the various scripts should be carefully noted, for the correct reading of a capital often gives an immediate clue to an apparently undecipherable word.

A knowledge of formulæ, that is technically 'Diplomatic,' is also of great assistance in transcribing documents. In fact Palæography and Diplomatic must go hand in hand, for while the one deals with 'the external elements of the

written text,' the other concerns 'the internal organism,' and each acts as a test and corrective to the other.

Writing materials in the old days were not cheap commodities and consequently they were used carefully, hence possibly the slight use of contractions even in the most formal documents. In those of a less formal nature, as in law or ministerial proceedings, their use was considerably extended, and their correct interpretation and extension are the chief difficulties to overcome in the transcription of an old text.

In the works cited above some help is given, and other guides are: *The Record Interpreter*, C. Trice Martin; Vol. IV. of *Registrum Palatinum Dunelmense*, Sir T. D. Hardy; preface to Vol. 29 of the Pipe Roll Society's Publications; and the Deputy Keeper's 40th *Report, Appendix XIV.*, p. 565.

Although chronology is a science in itself, it is essential that the student of mediæval documents should have some working knowledge of the chronological systems of the Middle Ages. The dates are not indicated, as they are now, by the day of the month and the dominical year; the simplest form is the day of the month and the regnal year, but more often the day of the week after some Saint's Day, or perhaps movable festival, and the regnal year are mentioned. The various methods of dating are discussed in Grotefend's *Taschenbuch der Zeitrechnung*, an admirable work in every way; in English the only book is still J. J. Bond's *Handbook of rules and tables for verifying dates in the Christian era*. There is also a useful chapter on the subject in E. E. Thoyt's *How to decipher and study old documents*, 3rd edition, 1909, a book the beginner will also find useful for other branches of this study. A very simple method of deciphering dates is detailed by Professor R. Lane Poole in the *Teaching of Palæography and Diplomatic*, edited by W. A. Archbold in *Essays on teaching of history*, 1901.

A word remains to be said as to the method of keeping records, at any rate in official custody. They were either



kept in rolls, the separate membranes being sewn head to tail to form one long strip, Chancery fashion, or sewn together at the top, Exchequer fashion; otherwise, when in the form of writs or pieces, they were kept on files (*in filaciis*) or in boxes (*in forulis*).\* Large, loose membranes were kept in bundles (*in bundelis*).

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\* This system is still seen in use in the section of the French Archives known as the *Trésor des Chartes* (Layettes).





## PART II.



## THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE.

**ADMISSION.**—Persons desiring to search the records open to public inspection can do so, free of charge, by applying to the Secretary of the Public Record Office for a Student's ticket on the form provided for the purpose. In the case of foreign students an introduction will be required from their respective embassies or legations. Such a ticket will allow the holder to inspect all records in the statutory custody of the Master of the Rolls, the records of the Duchy of Lancaster, the records of the late State Paper Office, and the records of the several Government departments down to the years specified by the heads of such departments. Every person using the Search Room must write his or her name and full address daily in the Attendance book placed in the Entrance Hall.

The Search Rooms are open every day except Sunday, Christmas-day and the following day, Good Friday, Easter Eve, Easter Monday, Monday in Whitsun week, His Majesty's Birthday, the August Bank-holiday, and days appointed for public feasts or thanksgivings. The hours of admission are from 10.0 to 4.30, and on Saturdays from 10.0 to 2.0.

A set of printed rules is issued with the tickets. It may be noted that application for documents must be made on forms supplied in the Search Room, a separate form being used for each document. Even consecutive members of a series must be applied for singly (only three documents are allowed in use at one time), but if the student wishes to consult a greater number it is now possible to write out the tickets and hand them to the Officer-in-Charge, so that all the documents are brought down to the Search Room and may be inspected three at a time without delay.



Where the reference to a particular document or documents is known, it may often save time to apply in writing the day before to the Officer-in-Charge, Literary Search Room, Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, W.C., but if they be required by 10 A.M. applications should be addressed to the Resident Officer. Pencil only may be used in the Search Rooms.

INSTRUMENTS OF SEARCH.—Having obtained access to the Search Room of the Public Record Office, the next point for the student is to find the way about. Recently the arrangement of the books on the reference shelves has been altered, but once the system has been grasped it is decidedly more satisfactory in use than the former one. It is now the same as that used for the classification of documents in Scargill-Bird's *Guide to the Public Record Office*, and may be described as 'proprietary,' *i.e.*, according to the Courts and Departments from which the documents were received: Chancery, Exchequer, Exchequer Augmentation Office, etc. These names are printed up round the room. Having turned up the class of documents required in Scargill-Bird's *Guide* and discovered under which general heading—Chancery, Exchequer, etc.—it comes, the searcher will find a List or Index, printed or MS., in the corresponding division of Round Room. This will give him the reference number of the document wanted.

There is also a MS. volume entitled *Key to Official Documents*, which is a Class list of the Documents in the Public Record Office, alphabetically indexed under the names of the different departments, indicating the means of reference to them. Each of the departments named in the divisions has also a MS. Class list, which, if not on the proper shelf, may be asked for at the desk. Another MS. volume is entitled *List of Calendars, Indexes, and Books of Reference on the shelves of the legal Search Room*. The titles of many of these are given in the appended select list.

SELECT LIST OF DOCUMENTS IN P.R.O. IN WHICH  
REFERENCES TO KENT OCCUR.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED.

Aug. Office	-	Augmentation Office.
D.K.R.	-	Deputy Keeper's Report.
D. of L.	-	Duchy of Lancaster.
I.P.M.	-	Inquisitions Post Mortem.
K.B.	-	King's Bench.
K.R.	-	King's Remembrancer.
L.R.	-	Land Revenue Department.
L.T.R.	-	Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer.
P.B.O.	-	Petty Bag Office.
P.R.O. }	-	Public Record Office.
R.O. }	-	
R.C.	-	Record Commission.
S.P. Dom.	-	State Papers, Domestic.
T. of R.	-	Treasury of Receipt.
W. & L.	-	Wards and Liveries.

An asterisk after any Index or Calendar indicates that it is arranged under counties.

The printing of titles of works in italics among the list of documents in this and other sections signifies that the contents are transcripts of documents, and not merely extracts or calendars.

A. A. i.—iii.\*

**Cartae Antiquae Rolls.**

J. Ayloffe, Calendar of Ancient Charters. D.K.R., 27, table of references to Charters contained in C.A., etc., Ethelbert of Kent—James I. These include charters of Anglo-Saxon times.

**Chancery Enrolments.** Lists and Indexes, 27. These include :—

**Charter Rolls.** 1 John—8 Henry VIII.

D.K.R., 29, 30, Calendar of Royal Charters occurring in Letters of Inspeximus, Confirmation Rolls, Charter Rolls, Cartularies. R.O. Calendar of Charter Rolls, Henry III.—Edward III. (1903, etc.).

*R.C. Rotuli Chartarum*, 1—18 John (1837).

\* This and subsequent numerical headings refer to the corresponding sections and sub-sections in Part I., where the classes of documents are described.

**Patent Rolls.** 3 John—64 Victoria.

R.O. Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1216—1494 (1891, etc.). The two volumes for 1216—32, published 1901—3, are transcripts of the originals. Calendar of Letters and Papers, Henry VIII. (1862—1910).

*R.C. Rotuli Litterarum Patentium*, 3—18 John (1835).

**Patent Rolls** (supplementary).

These include Pardons, Protections, and Staple Rolls.

**Close Rolls.** 6 John—1903.

R.O. Calendar of Letters Close, 1227—1377 (1892, etc.). The three volumes for 1227—42, published 1902—9, are transcripts of the originals. D.K.R., 32, Calendar of Trust Deeds relating to Charities enrolled, 9 George II.—1865.

*R.C. Rotuli Litterarum Clausarum*, 6 John—11 Henry III. (1833—44).

**Close Rolls** (supplementary).

R.O. Calendar of Chancery Rolls, 1277—1326 (1912), include Passage and Exchange Rolls, *i.e.*, writs permitting certain persons to go beyond the seas, and empowering foreign merchants to issue letters of exchange.

**Confirmation Rolls.** 1 Richard III.—1 Charles I.

D.K.R., 29, 30, Calendar of Royal Charters, etc., *ut supra*.

**Dispensation Rolls.** 37 Elizabeth—1747. (See p. 28.)**Extract Rolls.** 26 Henry III.—25 Edward III.**Fine Rolls.** John—23 Charles I.

Palmer's Indexes (MS., under place names).

R.O. Calendar of Fine Rolls, Edward I.—Edward II. (1911, etc.).

*R.C. Rotuli de Oblatis et Finibus, temp. Johannis*, (1835).

*R.C. Excerpta e Rotulis Finium, Henry III. rege*, 1216—72 (2 vols., 1835-6).



**Liberate Rolls.** 2 John—14 Henry VI.

*R.C. Rotuli de Liberate ac de Misis et Præstitis, regnante Johanne* (1844).

There is also a series among the Exchequer records from 10 Henry III.—34 Edward I.

**Redisseisin Rolls.** 14 Edward I.—39 Henry VI.

Almost entirely contained in *R.C. Rotulorum Originalium in Curia Scaccarii Abbreviatio, Henry III.—Edward III.* (2 vols., 1805—10). These contain the special writs enforcing reinstatement where persons had been redisseised by original disseisors.

**Scutage Rolls.** 16 John—11 Edward III.

R.O. Calendar of Chancery Rolls, 1277—1326, (1912). These include writs for relief from payment of scutage by those who had already rendered due service.

**Originalia Rolls.** Henry III.—1837.

Repertories, Jones' Index to the Records, Vol. I. (under place names).

*R.C. Abbreviatio Rotulorum Originalium.* (See above.)

Contain enrolments of grants, leases, etc., where any rent was reserved to the Crown. Similar enrolments, duplicates of Chancery enrolments, occur on the Memoranda and Pipe Rolls, see *infra*.

**Royal Charters.** D. of L.

D.K.R., 31, Calendar William II.—Richard II., corrected in R.O. copy and reference numbers given. List continued in MS. to Commonwealth.

**Ancient Deeds.**

R.O. Calendar of Ancient Deeds (1890, etc.). It is a made collection from the deeds found in the various offices (county references in margin).

**Ancient Deeds and Cartae Miscellaneae.** D. of L.

R.O. List and Index, 14. D.K.R., 35 and 36. Calendar revised in R.O. copy. Very few references to Kent.

**Chatham Fortification Deeds.** 1578—1715.

**Deeds, Charters and Evidences.** Edward I.—Charles I.  
(Court of W. & L.)

D.K.R., 6, Inventory and Index.\*

**Deeds, Enrolment of.**

See Scargill-Bird's *Guide*. D.K.R., 26, contains a list of plans annexed to deeds enrolled for safe custody.

**Miscellaneous Books.** Aug. Office.

Cartularies. D.K.R., 7, Description of Monastic Cartularies.

*Camden Society Publications. Customals of Battle Abbey.*

Cartae Miscellaneae. Calendared in MS.

Crown leases are also found among these books.

D.K.R., 25, Calendar 33—38 Henry VIII.

**Enrolment Book of Grants, Leases and Warrants.** L.R.  
Class List.\*

**Conventual Leases.** Richard III.—Henry VIII.

MS. Calendar and Index Locorum. These are transcripts or counterparts of leases made by the monasteries that fell into the hands of the Crown at the dissolution.

**Surrenders of Monasteries.**

D.K.R., 8, Inventory. These are the original deeds of surrender.

A. A. iv.

**Warrants for the Great Seal.** Henry III.—Victoria.

MS. Indexes. Docquet Books. D.K.R., 43, 48, for Charles I. Calendar of Letters and Papers, Henry VIII. (*op. cit.*).

**Warrants for the Privy Seal.** T. of R.

**Privy Seals and Warrants for Issues** (Exchequer).  
Henry III.—William IV.

**Sign Manual Warrants and Signet Office Bills.**

Index Library, Vol. IV. An index to bills of Privy Signet, 1584—96 and 1603—24, with Calendar of writs of Privy Seal, 1601—3, ed. W. P. W. Phillimore (1890).

Although these warrants are really a supplementary source, yet they do occasionally contain references to matters not entered on the Chancery Enrolments if these never passed the preliminary stages. The chief series alone have been indicated.

A. A. v.

### State Papers, Domestic.

Lists and Indexes, 43 (replaces 3). R.O. Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series (1856, etc.).

### Departmental Records (*passim*).

Lists and Indexes, 18 (Admiralty); Lists and Indexes, 28 (War Office).

Further particulars of Admiralty and War Office records, whether transferred to P.R.O. or still kept at the respective departments or elsewhere, will be found in the 'Second Report of the Royal Commission on Public Records,' 1914; see more especially pp. 22—24 and Appendix III., 49, 50 and 77 (14), for naval matters, and pp. 19—22, Appendix II., 33, and Appendix III., 54 and 77 (13), for military matters.

R.O. Calendar of Treasury Papers, 1557—1728 (1868—1889).

R.O. Calendar of Treasury Books and Papers, 1729—1745 (1897—1903).

R.O. Calendar of Treasury Books, 1660—1680 (1904—1913).

R.O. Calendar of Home Office papers, George III. 1760—1775 (1881—1899).

A. B. i. a.

### Rentals and Surveys.

Lists and Indexes, 25. This is a made collection including rentals, surveys and other analogous documents from K.R. Ancient Extents; Duchy of Lancaster; State Papers Domestic; Parliamentary Surveys and Miscellaneous Books of K.R., T. of R., Aug. Office, L.R. and Court of W. & L.

Particulars for Grants of Crown Lands. Henry VIII.—James I. (Aug. Office.)



D.K.R., 9 and 10. Inventory, Henry VIII. MS. Index Locorum. For Edward VI.—James I., see under Exchequer K.R.; and for Henry VIII.—George II., see under L.R.

**Particulars of Sale of Crown Lands.**

MS. List.\* (See also under Certificates, p. 100.)

**Particulars of Concealed Lands.** Elizabeth.

**Particulars for Grants for Free Grammar Schools.** 1551—2.

**Particulars for Leases.** Henry VIII.—James I. (Aug. Office.)

MS. detailed List.\*

**Particulars for Leases.** Henry VIII.—Charles I. (Court of W. & L.)

**Particulars for Sale of Estates and Fee Farm Rents.**

Commonwealth. Aug. Office MS. Index.\* (See also under Certificates, p. 100.)

**Chancery Files.** Petty Bag Office. These include :—

Proceedings relating to Charitable Uses. 43 Elizabeth—8 George II.

Lists and Indexes, 10.\*

**Lunacy Inquisitions.** Charles I.—1869.

MS. List.

**Commissions, etc., for Fortifying the Docks and Harbours at Portsmouth, Chatham, etc.** (Crown Office.) Anne—William IV.

Included among these are Commissions for securing lands in Kent (Faversham, etc.), 1762, 1786.

**Special Commissions.** Chancery, Petty Bag Office. MS. Index, 1 vol.

**Special Commissions.** Exchequer.

Lists and Indexes, 37\* (replaces D.K.R., 38).

**Extents of Alien Priories.** 22 Edward I.—22 Edward IV.

MS. List in K.R. Class List.

**Departmental Records.**

(See above, and more especially Admiralty and War Office.)

**Inventories of Church Goods.** Edward VI.

D.K.R., 7 and 9. *Arch. Cant.*, Vols. VIII., XIV.

Inventories also occur among Miscellaneous Books, Aug. Office. See MS. List.\*

### Records of Ecclesiastical Commissioners, deposited in P.R.O.

These consist of Court Rolls, Ministers' Accounts, and rentals of early date relating to manors under the jurisdiction of the Commissioners, grouped under ecclesiastical divisions. Permission to inspect must be obtained from the Commissioners.

A. B. i.  $\beta$ .

### Inquisitions Post Mortem. Henry III.—Charles I.

Series I. R.C. Calendar, Henry III.—Richard III., 4 Vols., 1806—28. R.O. Calendar, Henry III.—Edward III. (1898, etc.).

*Arch. Cant., Vols. I., III., IV., V., VI.*

Series II. Lists and Indexes, 23, 26, 31, 33. R.O. Calendar, Henry VII. (1898).

These include references to the series in the Exchequer, Chancery and Court of W. & L.

**Cardinal's Bundles** are now included in Series II., MS. List.\* Contain Inquisitions relating to monasteries surrendered to Cardinal Wolsey or taken after his death.

### D. of L.

Lists and Indexes, 14.

*R.C. Ducatus Lancastriae Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem* (1823—34).

### Inquisitions Ad Quod Damnum. Henry III.—Richard III.

Lists and Indexes, 17 and 22. Partly in the nature of a Calendar, counties in last column. After James I. see *Brevia Regia*, Petty Bag Office.

### Escheator's Files. Henry III.—Richard III.

MS. Index under names, counties in third column. These are subsidiary to the Escheators' accounts and contain inquisitions as to goods, chattels of felons and outlaws, and as to lands alienated without licence.

**Inquisitions De Forisfacturis.** 11—22 Richard II.

R.O. Calendar of Miscellaneous Inquisitions (in the press).

**Inquisitions De Rebellibus.** 49 Henry III.

See Calendar of Miscellaneous Inquisitions.

*R.C. Rotuli Selecti.* Ed. J. Hunter, 1834.

**Feodary of Kent.** Henry VIII.

Indexes, Exchequer L.T.R., No. 38.

**Feodaries' Surveys.** (Court of W. & L.) Elizabeth—Charles I.

MS. List.\* Supplementary to I.P.M.'s, from which they sometimes materially differ.

**Returns of Knight's Fees.** Henry II.—Charles I. Exchequer K.R.

This series includes Distraints for Knighthood and *Rotulus de Dominabus* of 31 Henry II. printed by Society of Antiquaries, and recently by the Pipe Roll Society (similar in character to I.P.M.). There is also a series among Chancery Miscellanea.\*

**Rolls of Serjeanties.** Henry III. and Edward I.

Miscellaneous Rolls, L.T.R. See *Testa de Nevill*.

**Returns of Papists' Estates,** pursuant to Statutes 1 & 9 George I.

MS. List.\*

*Register of Lands held by Catholics and Non-jurors in the County of Kent, George I., by W. Hart, 1870.*

A. B. i. γ.

**Domesday Book.**

Introduction to Domesday Book with Indexes of Tenants-in-Chief and Under-Tenants, Sir Henry Ellis, 1833. *R.C. Domesday Book*, 1816. *Facsimiles by Counties*, 1863.

**Miscellaneous Books.** (K.R., T. of R., First Fruits and Tenths.)

K.R. R.O. *Inquisitions and Assessments relating to Feudal Aids (for Kent, see Vol. III., 1904.)*

*Aid to knight the Black Prince, 20 Edward III., Arch. Cant., Vol. X.*



*Rolls Series, Red Book of the Exchequer* (1896).

*Black Book of the Exchequer, T. Hearne, 2nd Ed., 1774.*

*R.C. Testa de Nevill, 1807.\**

T. of R. includes lists of Knights' Fees and Valuation of Diocese of Rochester in 15th Century.

First Fruits and Tenths. Valuation of the Province of Canterbury, 1586.

**Subsidy Rolls, Lay, Clerical and Alien.**

(For details see under B. ii.)

**Taxation of Pope Nicholas.** 21 Edward I.

*R.C. Taxatio Ecclesiastica Angliae et Walliae, (1802).*

**Nonae Rolls.** 14 & 15 Edward III.

Listed in D.K.R. 2, App. ii., p. 154. It appears that there is nothing for the county of Kent printed in *Nonarum Inquisitiones, R.C., 1807*, except a writ, declaring the exemption of certain persons, which is given under Sussex, pp. 394—403.

**Valor Ecclesiasticus.** Henry VIII.

Miscell. Books, T. of R., 65, is an epitome of V.E. arranged under counties.

*R.C. Valor Ecclesiasticus, 6 vols., 1810—34.*

A. B. ii.

**Chancery Files (Tower Series).**

MS. Index. These include Certificates, Recognizances and other proceedings under the Statute Staple; elections of Mayors of the Staple, of Escheators and of Sheriffs of Towns. (See also the Certificates, Petty Bag Office.)

**Certificates and Recognizances of Statute Staple.** Henry VIII.—Anne.

Inventory in D.K.R. 4, Ap. ii., in chronological order. For earlier series see Chancery Files, above.

**Certificates of Colleges and Chantries.** Henry VIII.—Edward VI.

MS. List.\*

**Certificates of Guilds.** 12 Richard II.

MS. List.\* Fraternity of St. John at Canterbury appears to be the only one for Kent.

**Certificates of Residence.** Elizabeth—James I.**Certificates of Sale of Crown Lands.** Commonwealth.\*

(See also under Particulars, p. 96.)

**Sacrament Certificates.** P.B.O. 1673—1789. K.B. 1676 and 1728—1828.

These were signed by the ministers and churchwardens of each parish, and refer to the persons receiving the Lord's Supper pursuant to the Test Act, 25 Charles II.

**Bishops' Certificates of Institutions to Benefices.** Elizabeth—1862.**Bishops' Certificates of Church Livings not exceeding £50.** 5 Anne.

Ecton's *Liber Decimarum*. *Thesaurus Rerum Ecclesiasticarum*, by J. Ecton, edited by Browne Willis, 3rd Edition, 1763; a later edition known as *Bacon's Liber Regis*, 1786. Contains names of patrons of livings at date of publication.

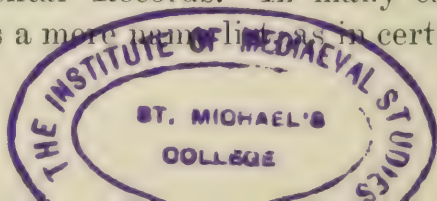
**Composition Books.** 1535—1795.

Indexes under Incumbents' names (Series I. and II.) and county arrangement (Series III. to V.). These contain entries of composition for first fruits paid by incumbents on their induction, giving date of payments and names of sureties.

**Institution Books.** 1613—1713.

Among miscellaneous books, First Fruits and Tenths Office. MS. Class List.

Certificates of stipends of vicars, curates and schoolmasters for the Commonwealth are contained in 2 files belonging to the series of Particulars for the sale of Fee Farm Rents (Aug. Office) given above. Certificates of various kinds occur also among State Papers, Domestic, and Departmental Records. In many cases this class of record becomes a mere name-list, as in certificates of Muster,



names of contributors to loans, Army and Navy Lists, Attorneys' oaths rolls, Sheriffs' books, etc.

A. B. iii.

### **Accounts Exchequer K.R.**

Lists and Indexes, 35. These are original accounts. See especially under the following heads:—Army, Aug. Office, Butlerage, Fines and Amercements, Foreign Merchants, Miscellanea, Navy, Ordnance, Resumed Lands, Ulnage, Various (Sheriffs' Administrative Accounts, Works). There are separate lists for the original Sheriffs' accounts of seizures, accounts of customs and collectors of subsidies, but the enrolled accounts of these are referred to in Lists and Indexes, 11.

### **Accounts, Enrolled.**

Lists and Indexes, 11. This list covers part of these accounts and includes all foreign accounts from Henry III. to Richard III. enrolled on the Pipe Rolls, Chancellor's Rolls and Rolls of Foreign Accounts. (For further details see Scargill-Bird). References to Kent are found under:—Army, Navy, Ordnance, Forfeited goods, Bishops' temporalities, Escheators, Ministers, Mint and coinage, Sheriffs' accounts of seizures, Works and Various.

### **Accounts, Declared.**

Lists and Indexes, 2.

### **Accounts of Land and Assessed Taxes. 1688—1830.**

These give the total amount assessed in each parish year by year. Lists of names are given in the duplicates filed with Clerks of Peace since George II.

### **Accounts, Ministers'.**

Lists and Indexes, 5.\* MS. List.\* Edward VI.—Charles I. and later. These are original accounts. The list includes those in the General Series:—Accounts of alien priories (chiefly extents), Bishops' temporalities, Contrariant lands, Knights Templars, Ministers' and receivers' accounts of D. of L. prior to Henry VIII.



*Arch. Cant., Vol. II. Fabric Roll of Rochester Castle.*

**Accounts, Various, D. of L.**

D.K.R., 45.

**Accounts, Receivers', L.R. Office.** Henry VIII.—1832.

MS. List\* in Class List.

**Miscellaneous Books** of the various Exchequer departments include feodaries' accounts, accounts of collectors of subsidies in various counties.

**Memoranda Rolls K.R. and L.T.R.** (see below, A. c. iii).

**Originalia Rolls** (see above, A. A. i—iii).

**Pipe Rolls.** 31 Henry I.—2 William IV.

MS. list in class list L.T.R. Lists and Indexes, 11 (see note to Enrolled Accounts).

*R.C. Great Rolls of the Pipe, 2, 3, 4 Henry II., 1 Richard I. (2 vols., 1844).*

*R.C. Pipe Roll, 31 Henry I. (1833).*

*Publications of Pipe Roll Society, 5 Henry II.—31 Henry II. (1884, etc.).*

**Exannual Rolls.** Edward I.—George III. (see p. 37).

**Chancellors' Rolls.** 9 Henry II.—3 William IV.

Lists and Indexes, 11.

*R.C. Rotulus Cancellarii, 3 John (1833).*

**Foreign Accounts, Rolls of.** 42 Edward III.—Charles II.

Lists and Indexes, 11.

**Receipt and Issue Rolls and Books.** Exchequer of Receipt.

D.K.R., 2, 3, 4.

*R.C. Issues of the Exchequer, F. Devon, 1836-7.*

*R.C. Issue Roll of T. de Brantingham for 1370, F. Devon, 1835.*

Among the records of this department are many entry and day books; for fuller details see the *Official Guide* (Scargill-Bird), *sub* Receipts and Issues, where *Jornalia*, *Jews* and *Liberate* Rolls are included.

**Subsidy Rolls, Clerical and Lay.**

D.K.R., 2, 3, 4, 5.

MS. descriptive list under dioceses for clerical and under counties for lay; where names are given the entry is marked with N in

red ink. Separate volume for Cinque Ports—Edward III.—Richard II.

*Lay Subsidies for Kent, Arch. Cant., Vols. IX., XI., XII., XIV.*

### **Subsidy Rolls, alien.**

MS. descriptive list.\*

**Accounts** of various kinds occur also amongst S.P. Dom. and Departmental records.

### A. c. i.

**Baga de Secretis.** 17 Edward IV.—53 George III.

D.K.R., 3, 4, 5. Calendar. These are indictments and attainders for high treason, and include proceedings in connection with Wyatt's rebellion.

**Controlment Rolls.** 3 Edward III.—6 & 7 Victoria.

Lists and Indexes, 4. These serve as indexes or abstracts to the Plea Rolls (see below).

**Coram Rege Rolls.** 1 Edward I.—13 William III.

Lists and Indexes, 4. Agarde's Index, 1—51. Edward III., 1—22 Richard II. Doggett Rolls, 13 Richard II.—1665. Great Doggett books.

*R.C. Placitorum Abbrevatio, Richard I.—Edward II. ed. W. Illingworth, 1811.*

*Index Library, Vol. XIX. Placita coram domino rege, Trinity term, 1297, ed. W. P. W. Phillimore, 1898.*

**Crown Rolls.** 1 Anne—47 Victoria.

Lists and Indexes, 4. Doggett Rolls (for civil causes only).

**Curia Regis Rolls.** 5 Richard I.—56 Henry III.

Lists and Indexes, 4.

*R.C. Placitorum Abbrevatio* (see above).

*R.C. Rotuli Curiae Regis, 6 Richard I.—1 John, ed. Sir F. Palgrave, 2 vols., 1835.*

*Pipe Roll Society, Three Rolls of the King's Court, 1194-5, ed. F. W. Maitland, 1891.*

*Selden Society, Select Pleas of the Crown, 1200—1225, ed. F. W. Maitland, 1888.*

*Selden Society, Select Civil Pleas, 1200—3, ed. W. P. Baildon, 1890.*

**Indictments, Ancient.** Edward II.—Henry VII.

Part arranged under counties, part chronologically.

**Indictments, Out Counties.** 1675—1886.

Minutes of the indictments are entered on the Bag Roll, the first part of Controlment Roll. There are also Indexes called 'Pye Books' (names only).

**Judgment Rolls.** 1702—1875.

Lists and Indexes, 4. Doggett Rolls and books.

**De Banco or Plea Rolls.** 1 Edward I.—24 Henry VII.  
1 Henry VIII.—38 Victoria.

Lists and Indexes, 4. Lists and Indexes, 32 (names and cases under counties, 1327-8). Le Neve's Indexes. Doggett Rolls, 1509.—1859. Doggett Books, 29 Charles II.—1839.

**Recovery Rolls.** 25 Elizabeth—1837.

Lists and Indexes, 4. Doggett Rolls and Books. Chronological entries and alphabetical indexes to judgments. Before this date similar cases are found on the de Banco Rolls.

**King's Rolls or Extract Rolls.** Edward III.—Henry IV.

It is surmised that these rolls were drawn up independently and possibly as a check upon the Roll of the Justices (see Introduction to Year Book, 16 Edward II., Part 2, in the Rolls Series).

**Feet of Fines.** Richard I.—William IV.

Common Pleas Class list. Le Neve's Indexes,\* Richard I.—Henry VIII. MS. Index, 1 Henry VIII.—58 George III.

*Pipe Roll Society, Feet of Fines, Henry II.—7 Richard I., 4 vols., 1894—1900, Arch. Cant., Kent Feet of Fines, 1195—1215, Vols. I.—VI. inclusive; abstracts of those from 1 Edward II. to 7 Edward III., in Vols. XI.—XV., XVIII. and XX.*

**Assize Rolls, etc.** John—Edward IV.

Lists and Indexes, 4. Agarde's Indexes (see remarks to Hundred Rolls, p. 107).



**Coroners' Rolls.** Henry III.—Henry VI.

Lists and Indexes, 4. Among the records of the King's Bench is a series of I.P.M. taken before the coroners in various counties from 1748 to 1767, similar to those enrolled at other dates on the Coroners' Rolls. These may include Kentish examples. The series at present is not arranged in any order, and is therefore difficult to consult. For information as to the custody of post-mediæval Coroners' records see 1914 Report on Public Records, *op. cit.*, Ap. III., 11 and 12.

**Gaol Delivery Rolls.** Edward I.—Edward IV.

Lists and Indexes, 4.

A. c. ii.

**Placita in Cancellaria.**

Tower Series. Edward I.—Richard III. MS. Index.\* Rolls Chapel Series, Henry VII.—James I. Petty Bag Office Series (known as Petty Bag Proceedings), James I.—Victoria. MS. Indexes,\* entitled *Brevia Regia*.

**Writs of Certiorari.**

Catalogued and filed under counties.

**Chancery Proceedings.** Richard II.—1885.

Lists and Indexes, 12, 16, 20, 29, for Early Proceedings. Lists and Indexes, 7, 24, 30, Series II. The Record Commission Calendar of early Chancery Proceedings is being replaced by new lists. The publications of *Index Society* and *Genealogist* give indexes of names and places for some reigns. MS. Bill books, 1673—1852. Cause books, 1620—1842.

*Selden Society, Select Cases in Chancery*, 1364—1471, ed. by W. P. Baildon, 1896. (These are the Bills, Answers and Depositions.)

**Chancery Masters' Documents.**

These contain the evidences on which the master founded his report and also the drafts of the reports.

**Chancery Miscellanea.**

These include commissions and laws of sewers.

MS. Index.\* Particulars about the records of Commissions of Sewers are given in 1914 Report on Public Records, *op. cit.*, Ap. II., 12 and 13.

**Decree Rolls.** 26 Henry VIII.—1878.

MS. Calendar and Index locorum.

**Reports and Certificates.** 1554—1885.

Alphabetical indexes.

### A. c. iii.

**Bills, Answers and Depositions** (early). Henry VIII.—Philip & Mary, Elizabeth—1841.

In MS. Class list, Exchequer K.R.\* MS. Bill books,\* Elizabeth—1841. MS. Calendar,\* Elizabeth.

**Decrees and Orders.** Four series covering from Elizabeth—1841.

Index locorum (Martin's).

**Decrees and Orders, Entry Books of,** five series, Elizabeth—1841.

MS. Calendar, 1 Elizabeth—3 James I. Martin's Index.

**Depositions, Barons'.** Elizabeth—1841.

Calendar, Elizabeth.

**Depositions taken by Commission.**

D.K.R., 38—42, Calendar, Elizabeth—George II.; also chronologically in counties at P.R.O. MS. Calendar, George III.—Victoria. Index nominum.

**Jews' Plea Rolls.** 3 Henry III.—15 Edward I.

Lists and Indexes, 4.

Jewish Historical Society of England. Calendar of Plea Rolls of Exchequer of Jews, 1216—1275, 2 vols., J. M. Rigg, 1905—10.

*Selden Society. Select Pleas, Starrs and other Records from the Rolls of the Exchequer of the Jews, 1220—84, ed. by J. M. Rigg, 1901.*

**Plea Rolis.** Exchequer of Pleas. Henry III.—1875.

Lists and Indexes, 4. D.K.R., 2., Tithe suits enrolled in Exchequer of Pleas.

**Plea Rolls. Court of First Fruits and Tenths.** Mary—George II.

Lists and Indexes, 4.

**Extents and Inquisitions** relating to Crown Debtors, 1685—1822.

The series is of some interest, as in many cases detailed inventories of lands and goods are given, but the documents are unarranged and in large portfolios (108). References to Kent may possibly be found scattered among them.

**Memoranda Rolls, K.R. and L.T.R.** Henry III.—Victoria.

Repertories under subjects. Agenda books. Martin's Index. Jones' Index to Exchequer Records, Vol. II. The Exchequer Proceedings, Henry III.—Anne are subsidiary to and mostly enrolled on Memoranda Rolls.

**Special Commissions and Returns.** Elizabeth—Victoria.

Lists and Indexes, 37,\* supersedes D.K.R., 38.

**Ecclesiastical Documents.** Henry III.—James I.

Descriptive list.

**Reports and Certificates.** 1648—1841.

MS. Index.

**Hundred Rolls.** 2-3 Edward I.—7-8 Edward I.

MS. Index.\* These contain inquisitions taken by two special Commissions appointed to inquire by means of a jury into the King's rights, etc., many of which had been usurped by the feudal lords. The Justices Itinerant seem to have held similar inquiries, and the Returns may be found among the Hundred Rolls, though it was more usual for them to be enrolled on the Assize Rolls among the *Placita Coronæ* and *Placita de Quo Warranto* (see also D.K.R., 19, among list of records of King's Bench, Crown side; and *Formula Book*, ed. by H. Hall, Part II., p. 126).

*R.C. Rotuli Hundredorum*, 2 vols. (1812—18).

**Miscellaneous Books in :—**

Aug. Office. D.K.R., 30, Calendar of Decrees, Acts of Court of Augmentation, 34—38 Henry VIII.



Court of W. & L. These consist of Pleadings, Decrees and Orders arranged under reigns.

A. c. iv.

**Proceedings of Court of Requests.**

Lists and Indexes, 21. Henry VII.—Elizabeth. MS. Indexes for later dates. D.K.R., 8.

*Selden Society, Select Cases in Court of Requests, ed. by I. S. Leadam, 1898.*

**Proceedings of Court of Star Chamber.**

Lists and Indexes, 13. D.K.R., 49.

*Selden Society, Select Cases before . . . Court of Star Chamber, ed. by I. S. Leadam, 2 vols., 1903—11.*

A. c. v.

**Parliamentary Proceedings.** Edward I.—James I.

For petitions see Lists and Indexes, 1, and D.K.R., 34, for index to petitions to King in Council (persons and place names).

**Parliament Rolls.** 18 Edward I.—15 Edward II.

*R.C. Rotuli Parliamentorum (Index vol.\*).*

*Rolls Series, Memoranda de Parlamento.*

**Privy Council Registers.** 1540—1760.

Only the registers for the years mentioned above are at the P.R.O.; the later volumes are preserved at the Privy Council Office. Many of these are printed. The Council Book and other Proceedings during the Commonwealth are amongst the records of the State Paper Office (now preserved in the P.R.O.). Proceedings before the Council of an early date will be found among the collection of Parliamentary Proceedings and amongst the records of the Chancery. Further particulars will be found in the 1914 Report on Public Records, *op. cit.*, Ap. II., 22, and Ap. III., 77 (11).

*R.C. Proceedings and Ordinances of the Privy Council of England, 10 Richard II.—33 Henry VIII., ed. Sir Harris Nicolas, 7 vols., 1834—1837.*

*Acts of the Privy Council of England, new series, 1542—1604, ed. J. R. Dasent, 32 vols., 1891—1907.*

The records from 1604—13 are missing; they perished in a fire, *temp.* James I.

**Court Rolls.** Lists and Indexes, 6. List in N. T. Hone, 'Manor and Manorial Records,' Ap., 1906.

**Court Rolls.** D. of L. List in D.K.R., 43.

These records were private in origin, but passed into official custody at various times with the manors to which they referred. The collection also includes, for Kent, a few records of County Courts, Hundred Courts, Portmotes, Market Courts, Woodmotes and *Cursus aquæ*.

Among the **State Papers, Domestic**, there is a volume (Elizabeth, vol. 128) relating to the jurisdiction and customs of the Cinque Ports, and another (Elizabeth, vol. 135) containing abstracts of proceedings against pirates in all the maritime shires, 1577—9, which should refer to matters of interest to Kentish historians.

## PRINCIPAL PROBATE REGISTRY, SOMERSET HOUSE.\*

**ADMISSION.**—According to the latest regulations application for admission to the Principal Probate Registry at Somerset House should be made by letter addressed to the President of the Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division of the High Court of Justice at "The Principal Probate Registry, Somerset House, London," with "Department for Literary Inquiry" in the corner of the envelope, and must (unless the President shall in any case otherwise direct) be accompanied by a satisfactory certificate or certificates shewing that the applicant is one to whom the privilege may properly be granted. The applicant must state his name, address, profession, or description, and

\* From information communicated by Leland L. Duncan, Esq., F.S.A., M.V.O.

the object of the research. An order under the signature of the President will give the applicant free admission for literary purposes for a period of six months, with the right to search the Calendars of the Wills proved and Administrations granted at a time not less than 100 years prior to the search being made, to read the registered copies of Wills proved, and the Probate and Administration Act books to the same date, and to make *extracts only* from such registered copies and books. A fee of one shilling will be charged for looking up every original will or other filed document, *extracts only* from which may be made without additional charge. No ink may be used in making extracts and no more than two Register Books can be produced for one reader at the same time.

The Department is open at all times when the Registry is open, except for six weeks in the months of August, September, or October, commencing from a day to be fixed by the Senior Registrar. No book or document is produced on Saturdays after 12.30 p.m., or on other days within the last half-hour of the Department remaining open, unless one of the Registrars shall otherwise direct.

#### DOCUMENTS.—

**Kentish Wills** are contained in two principal collections, that of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and that of the Diocese of Rochester.

(i) The Prerogative Court of Canterbury. The wills proved in this court, which claimed jurisdiction over the whole Southern Province, date from A.D. 1383.\* For the most part they are those of more or less substantial people, but there is a proportion belonging to “small” folk. For the years 1383 to 1629 the British Record Society have published a Calendar or Index in six volumes, which may be had separately from the Society. From A.D. 1630 onwards there are the *Year Books of Probates*, published by J. and G. F. Matthews, 93 and 94 Chancery Lane, W.C.; the last ones

\* In the Commonwealth period this court covered the whole country, as all the Diocesan Courts were in abeyance.



issued are for 1652-3. These are really calendars continued from where the B.R.S. left off, only they give the complete Probate Act with names of Executors.

The Kentish Administration Grants in this Court, from A.D. 1558—1649, are printed in Vols. XVIII. and XX. of *Archæologia Cantiana*.

(ii) The Rochester Diocese. The wills proved in this Court begin from A.D. 1444, and are for the most part excellently entered in books, though a few early filed wills are omitted. There are MS. indexes, but none has been printed.

The Court covered West Kent (the old diocese of Rochester) except those parishes which were in the Deanery of Shoreham,\* a peculiar of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The early records of this Deanery are lost, and existing wills only date from A.D. 1614.

**Inventories in the P.C.C.** These appear to range from c. 1480 to c. 1710, but are still unarranged; for further information see Second Report of the Royal Commission on Public Records, 1914, Ap. II., 4.

By no means all the records in the custody of the Principal Probate Registry are open to public inspection, but a rough summary list of the various classes of documents is given in the above-mentioned Report, Ap. III., 77 (2).

#### NOTE ON GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, SOMERSET HOUSE.

The contents and constitution of this registry, "the headquarters of the elaborate system of registering births, marriages, and deaths evolved by the successive Acts of Parliament since 1836," are described in the Second Report of the Royal Commission on Public Records (*op. cit.*) see especially, Ap. III., 27. At one time searchers were allowed to inspect the original registers in the repository

\* For the parishes comprised in this Deanery see *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XXIII., pp. 134, etc.

itself; now only the indexes (dating from 1837) may be searched by them on payment of a fee, and the references are verified from the register, on demand, by an official attendant. On payment of another fee a certified copy of the record required can be obtained.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.

**ADMISSION.**—Application for permission to examine the documents, which are accessible to anyone engaged in research work, should be made to the Clerk of Parliaments. There are no fixed rules regarding hours or days available for searchers, but, generally speaking, the MSS. may be inspected from 11 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., except on Saturdays, when the morning is the only time. There are more difficulties in making arrangements for a search when the House is not sitting.

**INSTRUMENTS OF SEARCH.**—No printed official lists are available. A Calendar of the documents in the House of Lords has been prepared under the direction of the Royal Commission on Historical MSS. Parts of this Calendar appeared as appendices to the first fourteen Reports, and it was then continued by the House itself in an octavo series for the years 1693 to 1706 (last volume issued in 1912). After this date MSS. may be looked up by means of the MS. list kept at the office of the Clerk of Parliaments.

**DOCUMENTS.**—Among those contained in the above Calendar may be noted:—

**Appointments;**

**Drafts of Acts** concerning local and private matters, such as bills for mending highways, for the preservation of timber and for regulating the descent of various Kentish estates;

**Petitions of local bodies**, such as the clothiers of Kent and the weavers of Canterbury;

**Petitions and Appeals** in law-suits;

**Reports of the Admiralty and the Cinque Ports** concerning “free trade,” *i.e.*, smuggling;

**Orders** for victualling ships and storing arms at Kentish ports or forts, and so on ;

**Lists of Officials** such as Deputy Lieutenants and the military officers of the Cinque Ports.

For a summary account of the Records of both Houses of Parliament reference should be made to the Second Report of the Royal Commission on Public Records, 1914.

### BRITISH MUSEUM.

**ADMISSION.**—An Admission ticket to the Reading Room can be obtained by a written application to the Director, British Museum, W.C., at least two days before it is required for use, stating profession or business address and the particular purpose for which admission is required, accompanied by a written recommendation from a householder\* given on personal knowledge of the applicant, and certifying that he or she will make proper use of the Reading Room. The Trustees desire the purpose for which the ticket is required to be stated as definitely as possible, and not merely as “study” or “research.” A ticket of admission to the MS. Department can be obtained in a similar way. A ticket for the Reading Room does not admit to the MS. Department, and *vice versá*, but on application at the office where tickets are issued and production of the one already granted, the other can be obtained. Passes to the Students’ Room, MS. Department, are only issued for a definite time, as for a day, or a week, or a month.

Both the Reading and Students’ Rooms are open every day of the week except Sunday, Good Friday, Christmas Day, and any Fast or Thanksgiving Day appointed by authority, and except also the first four week-days of March and September.

\* Recommendations of hotel keepers or of boarding-house or lodging-house keepers in favour of their lodgers are not accepted.



The Reading Room is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., but after certain hours the volumes supplied for service are restricted to those with press marks 2200—2504, and those preceded by R.Ac. and R.PP., and to three books bearing other press marks. This is a recent regulation and a great improvement on the older one. The MS. Room is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Those about to make their first visit to the Reading Room will find *A Guide to the use of the Reading Room*, published by the Trustees, 1912, on sale in the Entrance Hall for 6d., most useful. It contains a plan of the books on the reference shelves, together with a list of the various catalogues and of a few selected bibliographies.

INSTRUMENTS OF SEARCH.—The MSS. in the British Museum are the result of collection, and not the ordered accumulation of the records of an administrative department; technically they are not in official custody. Nevertheless, the collections do contain documents of an official nature that have escaped from such custody, besides others belonging to those classes described in sections B. and C. of Part I. The MSS. were originally classified under the names of their collectors and donors, and this system still remains the basis of the reference numbers, *e.g.*, “Harleian MS. No. . . . .,” and so on.

The contents of these various collections,\* each of which has its separate catalogue, accessible in the Reading Room, are summed up in the Classified Catalogue of MSS. in 108 folio volumes arranged under subject headings, and an index to these is in the Reading Room. Matters relating to the county of Kent may be sought chiefly in the following: “Topography,” “Religious Houses” (*s.v.*, Great Britain and name of house), “Naval Matters,” “State Papers collected.” For instance, under “Kent” in Topography, vol. 3, will be found references to a number of collections

\* For a summary account of their history and main contents see the report communicated by Sir F. G. Kenyon, Director of the British Museum, to the First Report of the *Royal Commission on Public Records*, 1912, vol. 1, pt. 2, p. 25.

formed to illustrate the history of the county, comprising originals and copies, and known by the collector's name, *e.g.*, the Streatfeild collection, and including in some cases many different kinds of diplomatic documents, such as charters, court rolls, rentals, etc. It must be noted that the classification of MSS. at the British Museum, on account of their diversity, is primarily according to main subjects with various sub-titles.

The Class Catalogue embraces references to all documents in the Museum, but the searcher will find invaluable assistance in Ellis and Bickley's *Index to Charters and Rolls*, owing to the concise information contained there. Here are references to charters, grants, leases, court rolls, fines, etc., contained in the collections of MSS., Royal, Cotton, Harley, Sloane, Campbell, Topham, Wolley, Additional and Egerton. It is arranged alphabetically under place-names, and gives also an index of places under their respective counties. The second volume contains references to monasteries and corporations and a list of wills for each county.

**DOCUMENTS.**—The following are the chief classes to be found:—

### Charters and other Diplomatic Instruments.

Index to Charters and Rolls, Ellis and Bickley, *op. cit.* Catalogue of Stowe MSS. in B.M., 1895.

W. De G. Birch, *Cartularium Saxonicum*, 3 vols., 1885—93.

J. M. Kemble, *Codex Diplomaticus aevi Saxonici*, 6 vols., 1839—48.

B. Thorpe, *Diplomatarium Anglicum aevi Saxonici*, 1865.

E. A. Bond, *Facsimiles of Ancient Charters in B.M.*, 4 vols., 1873—8.

(The index to this work serves as a list for A.-S. Charters in the B.M. down to the date of publication.)

*Arch. Cant.*, Vol. X. *Charters of Monks of Horton Priory.*

**State Papers.**

These form part of the different collections mentioned above, but four volumes of the Class Catalogue deal with them as a whole, chronologically, viz.:—

State Papers, collected, 2 vols.

State Papers, single, 2 vols.

There are few references to Kent; see particularly under Cinque Ports in index to Egerton Collection.

**Surveys, Assessments and Accounts.**

Ellis and Bickley, Index, *op. cit.* Catalogue of Stowe MSS., *op. cit.* Index (by counties) to Pedigrees and Arms in Heralds' Visitations, etc., in B.M. R. Sims, 1849.

*Arch. Cant., Vol. XII. Aid of 38 Henry III. (Cott. MSS. Galba, Edward IV., fo. 37).*

*Arch. Cant., Vol. XXV. Dover Chamberlain's Accounts, 1365—7.*

**Judicial Proceedings.**

Ellis and Bickley, Index, *op. cit.* Catalogue of Stowe MSS., *op. cit.* List of Court Rolls in B.M. in appendix to *Manor and Manorial Records*, N. J. Hone, 1906.

## CANTERBURY. LIBRARY OF THE DEAN AND CHAPTER.\*

**ADMISSION.**—The Library is open on Tuesdays and Fridays between the hours of 11.15 a.m. and 1.15 p.m. to the clergy of the diocese, and to such other persons as have permission to use it.

Application for admission should be made in writing to the Librarian or Deputy Librarian stating the nature of the work upon which the applicant is engaged, and enclosing a letter recommendatory from some person known to the Cathedral Chapter.

Students wishing to use the Library when it is not ordi-

\* Communicated by Rev. C. Eveleigh Woodruff, M.A., Deputy Librarian.



narily open for research, must make special application to the Deputy Librarian.

**INSTRUMENTS OF SEARCH.**—With the exception of a catalogue of Class 3, compiled by the Rev. C. Eveleigh Woodruff, and printed in 1911, the catalogues are in manuscript.

The *Chartæ Antiquæ* are calendared in three folio volumes, arranged alphabetically under place names.

The Monastic Registers were indexed by the late Dr. J. B. Sheppard in three folio volumes, each Register (21 in number) being indexed separately.

The Registers of the Dean and Chapter (except two of the earliest volumes) have not been indexed so fully, but a short index of contents will be found at the end of each volume; there are, however, several gaps in the series.

There is also a Catalogue of Seals compiled by the late Mrs. Sheppard, which contains also a brief Subject Index to the MSS.

A convenient summary of the Records will be found in Woodruff and Danks' *Memorials of Christ Church, Canterbury*, chapter xvii.

No index exists at present to the 359 volumes relating to proceedings in the Consistory and Archdeaconry Courts. They begin late in the fourteenth century and go down to the middle of the eighteenth. Extracts from these books have been published by Mr. Arthur Hussey in *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vols. XXV., *et seq.*, and in the *Home Counties Magazine*, 1900—1912.

Dr. Sheppard edited a volume of Canterbury Letters for the Camden Society in 1877, and three volumes for the Master of the Rolls in 1887, under the title of *Litteræ Cantuarienses*.

A general account of the Records will be found in the 5th, 8th and 9th (Part I., Appendix) Reports of the Historical MSS. Commissioners, edited by Dr. Sheppard, in the 6th Report, and in the Report on MSS. in Various Collections, Vol. I., edited by Dr. R. L. Poole, and issued under the same auspices.

**DOCUMENTS.**—These may be divided into the following classes :—

**Class A.**—Detached documents.

(1) **Ancient Charters.** VIIIth to XVIIth centuries. These number nearly 6000.

(2) '**Sede Vacante**' documents. Instruments issued by the Prior and Chapter of Christ Church, acting as guardians of the spiritualities of the See during vacancies in the primacy.

The Wills have been recently calendared by the Rev. C. Eveleigh Woodruff in the third volume of *Kent Records*.

(3) **Letters**; the most important being the correspondence of Prior Henry of Eastry.

(4) Domestic and rural economy of the Benedictine Priory of Christ Church, including the **Account Rolls** of the chief monastic officers.

**Class B.**—Bound volumes.

(1) **Registers** of the Prior and Chapter of Christ Church, and of the Dean and Chapter (after 1540). These volumes contain copies of every kind of document which passed through the hands of the monastic Chancellor, or in later times of the Auditor to the Dean and Chapter.

(2) **Act Books** of the Consistory and Archdeaconry Courts.

(3) **Miscellaneous.** Including the collections of the antiquary William Somner.

## CANTERBURY. DIOCESAN REGISTRY.\*

**ADMISSION.**—The Diocesan Archives, with the exception of those preserved at Lambeth Palace, are stored in two rooms over the Christ Church Gateway. Applications to consult them should be made to Henry Fielding, Esq., Burgate Street, Canterbury, the Deputy Registrar.

\* Communicated by Rev. C. Eveleigh Woodruff, M.A.



**DOCUMENTS.**—Those of chief importance in this depositary are: (1) The **Transcripts of the Parish Registers** of the Diocese. These are arranged in chronological order in cardboard boxes bearing the name of the parish to which they refer. There are generally two boxes for each parish owing to the fact that the returns were made in duplicate—one set to the Consistory and the other to the Archidiaconal Courts. A few of the transcripts date from 1558, many more from 1563.

The fee for searching the transcripts is 2s. 6d. an hour. Office hours 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

(2) **Licences** for Marriage, School-masters, Surgeons, Midwives, etc. The marriage licences down to the end of the eighteenth century were published by the late J. Meadows Cowper.

(3) **Maps of Church Lands, Terriers, Faculties, Certificates of Induction into Benefices, Curates' Licences**, etc.

### CANTERBURY. DISTRICT PROBATE REGISTRY OFFICE, 3 CASTLE STREET.\*

Registrar—H. Mapleton Chapman, Esq.

**ADMISSION.**—Applications for permits for the purposes of literary enquiry should be made to the Record Keeper, Probate Department, Somerset House, London. Before paying a first visit to the District Office it is desirable to communicate with the Registrar at least three days in advance, as the space available for searchers at Canterbury is limited.

Office hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (except THURSDAYS).

A literary search ticket does not entitle the holder to examine wills proved within the last hundred years.

**INSTRUMENTS OF SEARCH**—There are two sets of Calendars relating respectively to the wills proved in the Consistory and Archidiaconal Courts. The former begin c. 1396, the latter c. 1445. The Calendars are arranged alphabeti-

\* Communicated by Rev. C. Eveleigh Woodruff, M.A.



cally under testators' names. A printed Index of the Wills in this depository is in process of compilation, under the auspices of the British Record Society.

### LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY.\*

For the student of Kentish history and antiquities, as for the ecclesiastical history of England in general during the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the Archbishop's Library at Lambeth affords a rich store of material. Those who desire to obtain a general view of its history and contents are advised to consult *The History and Antiquities of the Archiepiscopal Palace of Lambeth*, by A. C. Ducarel (Nichols, 1785), *Art Treasures of Lambeth Library*, by S. W. Kershaw (Pickering, 1873), *Lambeth Palace and its Associations*, by J. Cave-Browne (Blackwood, 1882), and *Kentish Annals in Lambeth Library*, by S. W. Kershaw (*Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. XXIX., 1911). For printed catalogues of MSS. and books they will refer to *A Catalogue of the Archiepiscopal MSS. in the Library of Lambeth Palace*, by H. J. Todd (London, 1812), *Appendix to the Report of the Commissioners on the Public Records*, 1837, *A List of the Early Printed Books in the Archiepiscopal Library at Lambeth*, by S. R. Maitland (London, 1843), *An Index of such English Books printed before the Year 1600 as are now in the Archiepiscopal Library at Lambeth*, by S. R. Maitland (Rivington, 1845), *The MSS. in the Library at Lambeth Palace*, by M. R. James (Cambridge Antiquarian Society, Octavo Publications No. XXXIII. Cambridge: Deighton, Bell, 1900), and *Calendar of Lambeth Wills and Calendar of Lambeth Administrations* (*The Genealogist*, vol. vii., 1883). Some students will find it useful to be reminded that many of these volumes are to be found upon the open shelves in the Reading Room of the British Museum.

The Library is open to readers on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 to 4 (May to July, 4.30), and

\* Communicated by Rev. Claude Jenkins, M.A., Lambeth Librarian.

in the forenoon of Tuesday. It is closed for seven (Library) days from Christmas and Easter and for six weeks from September 1. No previous application is necessary, nor is any ticket of admission given, but students not previously known to the Librarian who desire access to MSS. or rare books are required to satisfy him as to their credentials and the researches which they propose to undertake. Subject to this, and with the exception of a very few classes of documents (*e.g.*, Visitation returns, etc.), as to which the Archbishop's special leave is necessary, the whole of the materials printed and unprinted in the Library are readily made accessible.

For leave to obtain photographs of books or MSS. application must be made in writing to the Archbishop through the Librarian. Such requests are almost invariably granted on condition that either a copy of the photographs, in the case of a small number, or of any published work based upon them, is given to the Library for the benefit of other students working there. Similar special application for leave must be made in cases where a student desires to transcribe the whole of a MS. or to make a tracing of any kind; permission for tracing, however, will not ordinarily be granted. Students wishing to have photographs taken at the Library by professional photographers are asked to bear in mind (*a*) that it is necessary for them to obtain the Archbishop's leave before giving instructions to the photographer; (*b*) that the photographer must be instructed to communicate with the Librarian some time beforehand, as his presence is required by the rules of the Library; (*c*) that the Library makes no monetary charge whatever, and that the Librarian cannot make nor accept any responsibility for financial arrangements with the photographers.

In the case of students living at a distance from London, and desiring information on subjects as to which the Library may have materials, the Librarian will gladly furnish it or make suggestions in regard to it to the best of his ability, provided that a stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed *and that an immediate answer is not required*. Where a pro-



tracted search or a large amount of transcription is necessary, he will be glad to place students in communication with competent professional researchers; but he cannot undertake responsibility for any financial arrangements in any circumstances. He will also gladly, and without charge, give an opinion so far as he is able as to original parochial records earlier than 1700, provided that the register or document is sent to him by *registered post, to be returned at the sender's risk in the same way*, and that he is allowed to transcribe (not necessarily for publication) any part of it for his own information. Such documents are ordinarily returned within either 48 hours or a week, according to their difficulty and length.

The student on visiting the Library will find it convenient to refer to the following MS. indexes to the collections which it contains, in addition to those mentioned above:—

(i) *Index of Ancient Charters and Miscellaneous Documents.*

The *Chartae Miscellaneae*, in fourteen enormous volumes, contain among many other things a large number of document connected with the lands of the Archbishopric, the Dean and Chapter, Christchurch and St. Augustine's, Canterbury, Dover Priory, etc., with charters, grants of land, etc., in different parts of Kent. These documents are of various dates from the twelfth to the seventeenth century.

(ii) *Calendar of Court Rolls, Ministers' Accounts, rentals and other rolls and documents.*

This Calendar, compiled by Messrs. Moore and Kirk in 1880, contains the Court Rolls, Receivers' Accounts, etc., including those of Christchurch, Canterbury (Nos. 1—94), Archbishop's Liberty (Nos. 95—105), Prior of Christchurch Liberty (Nos. 106—132 A), a series arranged roughly alphabetically (Kentish and other) numbered 133—1158, miscellaneous Court Rolls, Kent (Nos. 1159—1175), Ministers' Accounts, mostly Kentish Bailiwicks (Nos. 1195—1212, 1222—59, 1335—42, 1378—1400), with a jumbled series of Receivers' Accounts (Nos. 1343—77) and Receiver-General's Accounts (Nos. 1401—26). Besides this there are a number of



miscellaneous rolls and documents (Nos. 1430—1558), and a series of unbound presentations (Commonwealth) to livings numbered 1559—1764 of the same type as those bound up in Lambeth Manuscripts (944—7).

The publication of this index with a more elaborate index locorum taken from the rolls themselves would be of very great service to students of Kentish history. Some account of the Court Rolls will also be found in *The Manor and Manorial Records*, by N. J. Hone (Methuen, 1906), of which, however, there is not yet a reference copy in the Library.

(iii) For the ecclesiastical history of parishes under the Commonwealth reference should be made to the two indexes of Parliamentary Surveys and of the series which goes under the vague general title of "Augmentation books."

A description of these Manuscripts, with the companion volumes in other Libraries, will be found in *A History of the English Church, 1640—1660*, by W. A. Shaw (2 vols., Longmans, 1900), a book which a student of the period will have always at hand, while a very useful summary index to the same series will be found in the Appendix to the Report of the Record Commission of 1837. The Kentish survey is unfortunately very defective.

(iv) For an indication of the contents of Lambeth Manuscripts dealing with ecclesiastical affairs in the Restoration period, since they were only briefly noted in Todd's *Catalogue of Manuscripts*, 1812, much useful assistance may be derived from *Original Records of Early Nonconformists*, by G. Lyon Turner (3 vols., Fisher Unwin, 1911-4).

(v) For the period from 1705 the index called "Notitia Parochialis" gives references to a series of 1606 Returns of Parishes arranged in 6 volumes (Lambeth Manuscripts Nos. 1060—65); the Returns are not official, but are in many cases very interesting, and might with great advantage be printed.

(vi) *Catalogue of the Tracts and Pamphlets in the Archiepiscopal Library*, by A. C. Ducarel (3 vols., 1773), with two additional volumes by S. W. Kershaw, 1886-7. Not

directly connected with Kentish history in any way, but likely to yield some occasional material.

(vii) *Catalogue of the Kentish Collection of Books and Pamphlets*, by S. W. Kershaw. This collection contains a large number of books and pamphlets presented partly by successive Archbishops, and partly by authors and students for the benefit of their fellow-students. There are many volumes in it which are usually only accessible with great difficulty, though there are still some considerable gaps.

In addition to the collections of MSS. and books indicated in the above Catalogues, properly accredited students are given free access under certain conditions to the great series of Archiepiscopal Registers which extends from 1279 up to fifty years ago, with four early gaps (Mepham, Stratford, Ufford and Bradwardine, 1327—49). Some further records, mostly legal, of Archbishop Winchelsey's time will be found in Lambeth MS. 244 (unindexed). Cardinal Pole's Register is imperfect, and parts of it are said to be at Cambridge and Douay. The records of the year 1558-9 between his death and the consecration of Archbishop Parker have now to be sought for at Canterbury in a volume of Acts of the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury as guardians *sede vacante*, which appears to belong to the Lambeth series, but was given by Archbishop Temple to the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury in May 1899 to replace a volume which had been lost from their collection.

The Registers from Peckham to Herring (1279—1757) were indexed in 67 volumes by Dr. Ducarel. These indexes will be found most valuable by students of parochial history as indication of the information to be found in the Registers. Another set of the same indexes will be found in the British Museum (Addit. MSS. 6062—6109). In no case, however, is it safe to accept their authority as sufficient to allow the student to save himself the trouble of consulting the original records for the spelling of names, etc. The Registers of Archbishops Peckham and Parker are in course of publication by the Canterbury and York Society.

An interleaved copy of the Index of Lambeth Wills and



Administrations prepared by Dr. Marshall for *The Genealogist*, vol. vii., as noted above, but with subsequent additions and corrections contributed by users of it, will be found in the Library; it is much to be desired that it should be reprinted. Students will find much interesting information from some of these and other Kentish wills of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries in the volume of *Testamenta Cantiana*, edited by Mr. Leland Duncan (*Archæologia Cantiana*, Extra Volume, 1907), and in *Testamenta Vetusta*, by N. H. Nicolas (Nichols, 1826), but will remember that these do not profess to give all the information contained in the wills as entered in the Registers, and that in the case of the second book verification is imperative.

Students are reminded that the Registers of wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and of the Consistory Court of Rochester *are not to be found at Lambeth*, but at Somerset House; that there are very few wills of the seventeenth and none of the eighteenth century transcribed into the Archbishop's Registers; and that for the records of the Faculty Office and of the Court of Arches application must be made to their respective Registrars, and not to the Lambeth Librarian.

There is also at Lambeth a series of Act Books, covering the periods from 1665 up to fifty years ago, which contain summary notes of the documents transcribed in full in the Registers, together with many other matters. Each volume is indexed at the end, but there is no separate catalogue.

For leave to consult Registers and Act Books, covering the last fifty years, application must be made to the Registrar of the Province of Canterbury, 3 Creed Lane, E.C. To him should also be addressed requests for information in respect of transcripts of parish registers, marriage licences, etc., whether of the diocese or the Peculiars. None of these documents are in the custody of the Lambeth Librarian.

Two MS. volumes in the Library compiled by Dr. J. B. Sheppard give some indication of the contents of the *Sede Vacante* Registers in the possession of the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, with transcripts of many which interested



him. The catalogue, though useful, and one for which students will be grateful, is avowedly incomplete, and might with great advantage be supplemented.

On obtaining leave from the Archbishop, students of parochial history are allowed to consult the answers to visitation articles returned by the incumbents of parishes, where they still exist, up to the early part of the nineteenth century, and also the summary account in MS. of the parishes of his diocese compiled by Archbishop Secker for his own use. Some of these records will be found of great value.

In the case of these and similar documents it is necessary that the Archbishop's consent should be obtained before publication, but it is his desire to give facilities to serious students in every case in which it is reasonably possible to do so.

### THE REGISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER.\*

**ADMISSION.**—By appointment. Application by letter only, addressed to the Registrar (F. H. Day, Esq.), The Precinct, Rochester. Time—from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Saturdays (10 to 12.30). Fees: 2s. 6d. for brief search; by arrangement for prolonged search.

**INSTRUMENTS OF SEARCH.**—A MS. schedule of bound books and of boxes or bundles of unbound documents, and a MS. Index ditto. Special indexes as noted *infra*.

#### RECORDS.—

**Bishops' Registers and Muniment Books** from 1315: slip index under heading of parishes to first seven vols. ending 1678, with MS. digest (7 fol.) of their contents.

The earliest (1315—1373) is now being printed by the Canterbury and York Society. They contain copies of charters of different religious houses, appropriations of Rectories and the consequent ordination of Vicarages, royal

\* Communicated by Rev. Canon G. M. Livett, F.S.A.

briefs, exchanges of benefices, licences of oratories in manor houses, directions respecting feasts of saints, confessions of heresy, absolutions, indulgences, professions of hermits. Register VI., entitled *Liber Temporalium*, is a Cartulary of the See, and contains also other matter, such as schedules of rents and the customs of the episcopal sees. Register I. includes Acts of the Consistory Court for 1346-7.

**Consistory Court Act Books**, from 1436—1636, 23 vols., with slip index to first five vols. ending early sixteenth century, and MS. digest.

**Terriers**, 16th century *et seq.*, with list.

**Marriage Allegations**, 1637-39, 1715-6, 1731 *et seq.*

**Inductions**, 1550 *et seq.*

**Administration Bonds**, 1685—1774.

**Archdeacons' Visitation Books**, 1733—1892.

**Churchwardens' Presentments**, 1704—1759, 1783 *et seq.*

**Tithe Awards and Maps**.

**Miscellaneous**.

The records have recently been overhauled by the Rev. J. Harvey Bloom and housed in a room over the Prior's Gateway fitted up for their reception. Some of them will be found printed in Dr. Thorpe's *Registrum Roffense*, 1779. The Registers are being rebound by subscription as funds permit.

### ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL LIBRARY.\*

**ADMISSION**.—Application must be made, by letter only, addressed to the Chapter Clerk (R. A. Arnold, Esq.), The Precinct, Rochester, and the conditions are the same as for the Diocesan Registry.

**INSTRUMENTS OF SEARCH**.—There is a typed Calendar of Deeds and Documents by the Rev. J. H. Bloom, 2 vols., 1907.

#### DOCUMENTS :—

**Textus Roffensis**. Summary of contents in *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XXIII. T. Hearne. *Textus Roffensis*, 1720.

\* Communicated by Rev. Canon G. M. Livett, F.S.A.

**Custumale Roffense.**

*J. Thorpe. Custumale Roffense, etc., 1788.*

**Chapter Minute Books.**

**Documents and Papers** (over 4,000) relating to Rochester Priory, Strood Hospital, Ledes Priory, Rotherfield, a few London parishes, and a large number of Kentish parishes. Many of these, together with extracts from the "Textus," are printed in Dr. Thorpe's *Registrum Roffense*, 1769.

**WESTMINSTER ABBEY.**

**ADMISSION.**—By writing to the Dean and Chapter permission to inspect the records can be obtained, and they may be seen during the office hours of the Staff of the Chapter Clerk.

**INSTRUMENTS OF SEARCH.**—The documents at Westminster Abbey were reported on by the Hist. MSS. Commission in Reports 1 and 4, and are also noted in the Report on Local Records, 1902. They are further described in *The Manuscripts of Westminster Abbey*, by J. Armitage Robinson, D.D., and Dr. M. R. James, 1909. They are classified under Counties, Abbey and Miscellanea. The calendar made by the Abbey Librarian in 1740 has been supplemented by the work of Thomas Burt of the P.R.O., 1872-75, in MS. For wills see *Index to Ancient Testamentary Records of Westminster*, A. M. Burke, 1913.

**DOCUMENTS.**—Those relating to Kent include:—

**Rolls of Lands and Tenements** of the late John Perneys in London, Middlesex, Surrey and Kent, *temp.* Henry VI.

**Accounts** of rents received at Dartford, Greenwich, etc.

**Appointment** of John de Wratlyng and others to receive seisin of land granted them in Middlesex, Kent and Surrey (?), 40 Edward III.

**The Great Cartulary or Domesday** contains Charters and evidences of estates arranged by counties.



## LONDON DIOCESAN REGISTRY.\*

**ADMISSION.**—Application to see the documents of the Bishop of London's Registry, Dean's Court, Doctors' Commons, E.C., should be made to the Registrar.

**INSTRUMENTS OF SEARCH.**—The Registry contains a few documents relating to parishes in Kent, all since 1845, and these are indexed with the parishes in Middlesex. The Index is kept at the Registry, but the documents (original) are kept in St. Paul's Cathedral. A small charge is made for attendance at the Cathedral to look up any documents that may be required.

**DOCUMENTS.** The records consist of **Sentences of Consecration of Churches, Faculties** for alterations, etc., in churches, **Institutions, Licences to Curacies**, etc., and a few copies of **Parish Registers**.

For the older records, relating to the Consistory and Commissary Courts, etc., of London, which have been transferred to Somerset House, see the 1914 Report on Public Records, Ap. II., 3 and 5; but it is possible that there are still some remaining in the Bishop's custody. Matters of Kentish interest would be quite likely to be found in all of them.

It should be noted that much information about the present custody of Ecclesiastical Records is to be found in the 1914 Report on Public Records, *op. cit.*; see more especially pp. 6, 11, 49; Ap. II., 14 and 15; Ap. III., 23.

## NOTE ON PARISH RECORDS.

For permission to inspect the records of any parish application must be made to the incumbent, who is the sole legal guardian. The fees payable by searchers for entries in the Parish Registers are 1s. for the first and 6d. for every

\* From information communicated by Charles W. Lee, Esq.

subsequent year searched. For long searches it is often possible to come to some arrangement by which only a nominal sum is paid.

(For general information see the works given in Part I., p. 73.)

There is also a list of Parish Registers beginning in 1538 and 1539, and a list of those printed, with the means of reference to them, in *The Parish Registers of England*, by J. C. Cox, one of the "Antiquary's Books." This list embraces all the publications by individuals as well as those of the Parish Register Society and those contained in the vols. of *Arch. Cant.*, etc.

For churchwardens' accounts, Chapters II. and III. of *Churchwardens' Accounts*, by J. C. Cox, also among the "Antiquary's Books," should be consulted. References to all printed accounts are included in this work.

The non-parochial registers, *i.e.*, those kept by the various dissenting bodies, including Quakers, are now preserved in the General Register Office, Somerset House. In *Records and Record Searching*, by W. Rye, special attention is drawn to the value, in connection with the history of Nonconformity, to the MSS. in Dr. Williams' Library, reported on in Report III. of Hist. MSS. Com. Mr. Rye's book also gives references to some printed works on the subject.

Much useful information is to be found in *The Records of Rochester*, by the Rev. C. H. Fielding, 1910. This gives short particulars of the churches in the Diocese of Rochester, with lists of their incumbents, and also a few notes on Parish Registers.

### SESSIONS HOUSE, MAIDSTONE.

ADMISSION.—It is stated in the Report of the Commission on Local Records, 1902, that while a member of the public as such would not be allowed to inspect the documents, but would merely be furnished with a copy at the usual rate of charge, leave of inspection, on special grounds,

to approved persons would be granted. Application for this should be made to the Clerk of the Peace.

**INSTRUMENTS OF SEARCH.**—There does not appear to be a general catalogue, but certain classes of documents († in tabulated list below) are classified and arranged as follows:— Each document is numbered and a written index of the records is kept, the entries being in alphabetical order, each with its number prefixed.

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS.\*—**

- † Title deeds of properties belonging to the county.  
Original Commissions of the Peace, from 1640.
- † Ale-house Rolls from 1649.  
Do. Recognizances from 1753.  
Constable Lists from 1650.  
Corn Returns.  
Freeholders' Lists from 1696.  
Game Keepers' Lists from 1785.  
Freemasons' Returns from 1799.  
Poll Books from 1714.
- † Sacrament Certificates from 1673.  
Documents enrolled under statutory enactments, *e.g.*, land tax assessment returns from 1744, Militia returns of "Custos Rotulorum" from 1679.  
Awards of Enclosure Commissioners.
- † Indictment Rolls dating from 1650.
- † Sessions Papers from 1595.  
Quarter Sessions Order Books from 1625.  
Swearing Rolls from 1673.

There are no calendars nor have any of these documents been published.

The above is a fuller list than that given in the first Report on Public Records, 1800, under "Clerks of the Peace," Kent.

\* Communicated by W. B. Prosser, Esq., Clerk of the Peace for Kent.



## NOTE ON MIDDLESEX COUNTY RECORDS.

There are scattered references to Kentish people and property among the Session Rolls and books of the Middlesex County Records deposited at the Westminster Guildhall or Sessions House, in the care of the Clerk of the Peace. Full extracts from these, 3 Edward VI.—4 James II., have been published, in 4 vols., by J. C. Jeaffreson for the Middlesex Record Society, 1886, etc.; and a Calendar of Sessions Rolls, 1689—1709, by W. J. Hardy, was published in 1905. The Calendar has been prepared for publication down to 1729. See the indexes under County and Place names.

## CANTERBURY.\*

**ADMISSION.**—The Canterbury Municipal Records are preserved in the Royal Museum or Beane Institute, High Street, Canterbury. Students desirous of consulting them should make application in writing to the Librarian, stating the purpose for which the permission is required, and enclosing a reference to a householder of good social position in the city or neighbourhood. The Library is open every day, except Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**INSTRUMENTS OF SEARCH.**—There is no general catalogue of the Records.

Dr. Sheppard's Report upon the MSS. will be found in the ninth Report of the Historical MSS. Commission, Part I., Appendix.

Bunce's Extracts from the Records, and Abridgements of the Orders and Decrees of the Court of Burghmote between 1540—1793, are kept in the Reference Library and will be found useful.

**DOCUMENTS.**—Among those mentioned in the above Report may be noted:—

**Royal Charters and Letters Patent, Henry II.—George III.; Deeds of Incorporation,** relating to trades and guilds, chiefly sixteenth century;

\* Communicated by Rev. C. Eveleigh Woodruff, M.A.

**Book of Murage**, fifteenth century, giving the various sums for which the citizens were assessed for repairs of the city walls and gates;

**Chamberlains' Account Books**, dating back to Richard II.;

**Pipe Rolls**, 1553—1820 (there are gaps for reigns of Charles II. and James II.), containing the year's statement of account between the city and the Royal Exchequer;

**Records of Court of Burghmote or Mayor's Court**, sixteenth century and onwards;

**Session Books** (relating to Sessions of Peace for the city), Henry VIII. onwards;

**Burghmote Books**;

**Minutes of Causes** in the Temporal Court of the Archbishop, 1661;

**Formulæ** of instruments likely to be of use in a Town Clerk's office.

## THE CINQUE PORTS.

The Official Records relating to the Cinque Ports are preserved at Dover under the care of the Registrar of the Cinque Ports for the time being, with the exception of some which are stored in an iron chest at New Romney. With the latter there are a number of records of the ancient popular courts.

The documents were described in the First Report from the Select Committee on Public Records, 1800; the General Report from the Commission on Public Records, 1837; and again recently in the Second Report of the Royal Commission on Public Records, 1914. (See more especially Ap. III., 19 and 77 (5 A)).

The documents at Dover include :—

**Minutes of the Court of Admiralty**, 8 Charles I.—Commonwealth;

**Minutes of the Court of Chancery**, 1615—1633, 1673—1773;

**Proceedings of Court of Loadmanage** (pilotage), 1496—1808 ;

**Transcripts of Ordinances**, 32 Henry VIII.—1679.

According to the 1800 Report there is a schedule of the books setting forth when they begin and end.

The documents at New Romney (see Hist. MSS. Com., Report 4) include :—

**Reports and Relations of Bailiffs** on the annual visits to Yarmouth Fair, 1582, 1600, 1610, 1620, 1630 ;

**The White Book**, 10 Henry VI.—9 Elizabeth, containing entries of acts and decrees of the Court of Brodhull (Brotherhood and Guestling) ;

**The Black Book**,\* 14 Elizabeth—1865, a register book of the Cinque Ports.

It has been suggested that the last two are semi-official and really belong to the Registrar's collection, though now preserved with the records of the old Popular Courts.

The indexes of the Great White Book and of the Black Book were published by Elliot Stock in 1905.

*Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XXIII. *Bailiff's Report*, 1588.

*Charters of the Cinque Ports. Two Ancient Towns and their Members*, edited by Samuel Jeakes, 1728.

The *History of Sandwich*, by W. Boys, contains many documents relating to the Cinque Ports.

There are also many references among the Corporation Records of the various Members (given below in alphabetical order) which throw considerable light on the history and procedure of the Cinque Ports.

The records of the individual corporations were calendared in the Reports of the Hist. MSS. Com., and some are given in the Report on Local Records, 1902. Dover was not dealt with by the Hist. MSS. Com., but a list of such records as exist is given in *Dover Charters and other Documents*, edited by S. P. H. Statham, 1902.

\* According to the 1914 *Report on Public Records*, vol. ii., p. 166, this is preserved at Rye.



**DEAL** (member of Sandwich).—Application to see the records should be made to the Town Clerk. Some of these are kept at his office, others are at the Borough Accountant's Office in Queen Street, while the Charter of Incorporation is at the National Provincial Bank. An inventory of the records, contained in books and papers, belonging to the Corporation is given in the General Report, Public Records, 1837, *op. cit.* The Charter of Incorporation dates from 1699, and there are no records of earlier date at Deal. Previous to incorporation it was under Sandwich, so that occasional documents referring to its municipal matters may be found among the records of that town. Among those preserved at Deal are :—

**List of Freemen, 1699 ;**

**Orders of Common Assembly from 1699 ;**

**Title Deeds to Guildhall, Market Place, Gaol and gaoler's residence ;**

**Sessions Books, 1720, and from 1749 ;**

**Court of Records, 1725, 1741-7, 1755-64, and from 1792.**

The Charter of Incorporation is printed in *Boys' History of Sandwich, op. cit.*

**DOVER.**—The records are kept at the Town Hall and may be seen by appointment with the Hon. Librarian, who is the Town Clerk. For an account of their contents see S. P. H. Statham, *Dover Charters, op. cit.* (this includes a list of some of the documents preserved at the P.R.O. and the British Museum) ; the Report on Local Records, 1902 ; *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. IX., "Municipal Records of Dover," by E. Knocker. The documents include :—

**Royal Charters, Deeds of Mayors ;**

**Chamberlains' Accounts, 1547—1835 ;**

**Records of Pleas before Mayor, Bailiffs and Jurats and Sessions of Peace, etc., 1545—1740.**

**Records of Hornblowing and Common Assemblies, 1603—1798 ;**

### Proceedings of Court of Shepway.

Some of the above are printed by S. P. H. Statham, *op. cit.*

**FAVERSHAM\*** (member of Dover).—The records are kept at the old Lock up and an application to see them must be made to the Town Clerk. For an account of their contents see Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. 6, Report on Local Records, 1902, Papers by F. F. Giraud in *Arch. Cant.*, Vols. IX., X., XIV., XVI., XVIII., XX., XXI., XXIV., XXVII., XXVIII., XXX.

The documents include :—

**Charters, Writs, Indentures and Deeds** from Henry III. ;  
**Returns to Lord Warden**, etc. ;  
**Chamberlains' Accounts** (extracts in *Arch. Cant.*, XXIV., for other Town Accounts see Vols. X. and XIV.) ;  
**Court Rolls** ;  
**Records of Portmote Court** (extending from an early date and throwing light on Families long before the Parish Registers begin) ;  
**Records of the Court Leet** ;  
**Records of Sessions of Peace** ;  
**Records of the Clerk of Market** ;  
**Wardmote Books** (see "Notes from Minute books of Corp. of F.," extracts from Wardmote books, 1570–1740. *Arch. Cant.*, XXVIII.).

Some documents are given by E. Jacob in his "History of Town and Port of Faversham," 1774 ; see also "Notes from Records of Faversham, 1560–1600," by J. M. Cowper in *Trans. Royal Hist. Society, Series I.*

**FOLKESTONE** (member of Dover).—The records are kept at the Town Hall, and application to see them must be made to the Town Clerk. Some account of their contents is given in the General Report on Public Records, 1837, *op. cit.* ; Report on

\* From information kindly given by F. F. Giraud, Esq.

Local Records, 1902 ; Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. 5 (for letters) ; *Arch. Cant.*, IX. (Gossip from the Municipal Records of F.) ; and a detailed list with extracts was drawn up in 1904 by E. G. Atkinson, Esq., of the P.R.O. for the Library Committee.

The documents include :—

**Charters, Leases and Decrees ;**  
**Chamberlains' Assessments, 1776—1835 ;**  
**Assessments, window tax, house and land, 1777—1785 ;**  
**Sacrament Certificates, 1724—1827 ;**  
**Chamberlains' Accounts, 1515—1835 ;**  
**Overseers' Accounts, 1704—1837 ;**  
**Accounts (Mayors'), 1805—34 ;**  
**Accounts, Dover Castle, 1817—28, 1831—4 ;**  
**Folkestone Poor Book, 1668—1706 ;**  
**Papers relating to Magisterial business, 1721—1838 ;**  
**Session Papers and Files, 1770—1828 ;**  
**Proceedings of Folkestone Court of Record, 1746—1833 ;**  
**Common Assembly Minute Books, 1667—1812 ;** and other  
 papers and books relating to various municipal  
 matters.

FORDWICH (member of Sandwich).—Application to inspect the municipal records should be made to the Chairman of the Trustees. An account of the records will be found in Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. 5 and another by the Rev. C. Eveleigh Woodruff in *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XVIII.

The documents include :—

**Charters ;**  
**Inquisitions Post-mortem ;**  
**Certificates under the Test Act ;**  
**Bonds for Money and Recognizances ;**  
**Accounts of fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries ;**  
**Churchwardens' Accounts, 1509—38 ;**  
**Proceedings before the Mayors (*Finales Concordiæ*) 1216—1350 ;**  
**Records of the Mayor's Court from fifteenth century ;**



**Custumal** (printed in *History of Town and Port of Fordwich*, by Rev. C. E. Woodruff, 1895).

Many extracts from documents are given by the Hist. MSS. Com. and by the Rev. C. E. Woodruff in the work mentioned above.

**HYTHE.**—The records are kept in a chamber over the porch on the south side of the parish church under the care of the Town Clerk.

An account of the records will be found in the General Report on Public Records, 1837, *op. cit.*, and in the Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. 4, which prints a good many extracts.

The documents include:—

**Royal Charters, Letters Patent, Writs, Bonds, Releases and Deeds** of various mediæval dates ;

**Town Accounts**, *temp.* Henry VII. ;

**Churchwardens' Accounts**, 1480 (*Arch. Cant.*, Vol. IX., 1412-3) ;

**Jurats' Accounts**, 7 Edward IV.—2 Richard III. ;

**Court Books** for various dates from fifteenth century ;

**Book of Complaints**, 27 Henry VI. and *temp.* Charles I. ;

**Book of Complaints and Judgments**, seventeenth century ;

**Hundred Court**, papers connected with the, earliest date 22 Richard II., latest date 23 Henry VI. ;

**Fines**, book of acknowledgment of ;

**Assembly Books**, late sixteenth to eighteenth centuries ;

**Customs of Hythe.**

The collection of Deeds, etc., belonging to the Hospital of St. Bartholomew (Hist. MSS. Com., Rep. 6), is valuable for the early history of the town.

There is also an official plan of the Hythe Canal among the War Office (Engineer) Records at Archcliffe Fort, Dover.

See also under Private Collections (H. B. Mackeson, Esq., Hythe).

**LYDD** (member of Romney).—Application to inspect the records should be made to the Town Clerk.

An account of the records will be found in Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. 5 and in *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XIII.

The documents include:—

**Royal Charters** (earliest extant 38 Edward III.) ;

**Town Accounts** ;

**Court Books** from fifteenth century ;

**Custumal** (printed in Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. 5).

**NEW ROMNEY.**—The records are kept in the Town Hall, and application to inspect should be made to the Town Clerk.

An account of the records will be found in Hist. MSS. Com. Reports 4, 5 and 6, and in *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XVII., where a concise list is appended.

The documents include:—

**Ancient Deeds** ;

**Assessment Books**, (including maletotes), 1379—1446, 1448—1516 ;

**Chamberlains' Accounts**, 1528—80, 1587—1626 ;

**Book of Pleas**, 1454—82 (suits), 1628—1746 (entry books of pleas) ;

**Counter-parts of Fines** ;

**Court Books**, 1520—1744 (containing records of Courts termed variously, Hundred Court, General Court, and General Quarter Sessions of Peace) ;

**Assembly Books**, 1577—1761 ;

**Proceedings of Court of Chancery of the Cinque Ports**, 1563 ;

**Brotherhood and Guestling**, papers relating to, Eliz.—William III. ;

**Custumal**, *temp.* Henry VI. (differs from that printed in Lyons' *History of Dover*).

**SANDWICH.\***—The records are preserved at the Guildhall, and application to inspect must be made to the Mayor, and then an appointment made with the Town Clerk. An account

\* From information kindly given by J. A. Jacobs, Esq.

of the contents will be found in the General Report on Public Records, 1837, *op. cit.*, Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. 5 and Report on Local Records, 1902.

The documents include:—

**Charters, Deeds, etc.;**

**Writs for Ship-money;**

**Treasurers' Accounts**, rolls and books of, 1664—1835;

**Fines and Recoveries**, 1529—1662;

**Assessments;**

**Custumal**, 14th cent. (?);

**Year Books connected with the Municipal Administration** (the series begins with the 'Old Black Book,' 1432—87, and ends with Book G. & H., 1731—1828; serving as an index to these there is Boys' MS. book containing extracts, notes and references);

**Letter-books** of seventeenth and eighteenth century;

**Sandwich Book of Orphans**, 1587. (*Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XVI.).

Many of the documents are printed in Boys' *History of Sandwich, op. cit.*

**TENTERDEN** (member of Rye). Application to inspect the records should be made to the Town Clerk.

An account of the oldest record books of the Corporation was given in the General Report on Public Records, 1837, *op. cit.*, and a few additional details occur in Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. 6.

The documents include:—

**Charters**, transcripts of;

**Ancient Deeds** (very few references to places in Kent);

**Record Books** from 27 Henry VI., containing charters, grants to town of liberties, franchises, bye-laws, custumal, and entries of municipal and other ordinances;

**Plaint Books**, 1704—1837 (proceedings of Court of Record and Fines enrolled).

The documents of the other Cinque Port, Hastings, and the two Ancient Towns of Winchelsea and Rye (all in Sussex) are reported on in Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. 5 and 13.



## MAIDSTONE.

**ADMISSION.**—The Borough Records are kept at the Town Hall, although a few, noted below, are to be found in the Museum.

Application for permission to inspect the documents should be made to the Town Clerk.

**INSTRUMENTS OF SEARCH.**—The documents have recently been sorted and arranged and a catalogue\* made, but so far this has not been printed.

**DOCUMENTS.**—The following list will give a general idea of the contents:—

**Charters of Incorporation;**

**Deeds** relating to land, 1347—1821 (21 Edward III.—2 George IV.); relating to fairs and markets, 1611—1650;

**Bonds and Recognizances** to the Corporation (some are also found among the documents relating to the Sessions), 1563—1714;

**Victuallers and Ale-house Keepers**, documents relating to, 1594—1825, consisting chiefly of presentments and petitions;

**Miscellaneous**, 1582—1725, include bonds to Corporation for the maintenance of certain children, etc.;

**Indentures of Apprenticeship**, 1563-4—1826 (chiefly Fisher's Charity, those for 1692—1726 are at the Museum);

**Sacrament Certificates**, 1673—1739;

**Recusants**, documents relating to, 1593—1617, in the form of presentments, memoranda and certificates;

**Chamberlains' Accounts** and vouchers, 1561-2—1803;

**Churchwardens' Accounts** and vouchers, 1604—1606-7, including bills and vouchers for upkeep of work-house, almshouse, etc., 1710-39, 1749;

**Accounts of the Guild of Corpus Christi**, 1474—1496 (on

\* The work has been carried out by Miss Martin, who has very kindly allowed the rough list of documents here given to be made from her more detailed inventory.

back of one of the rolls are inventories of some church goods);

**Pleas at Maidstone**, documents relating to, in bundles ranging from Elizabeth to Mary and William, these include mayors' precepts, writs, bills of complaint, etc., and refer chiefly to pleas for debt and trespass;

**Coroners' Inquests**, 1735—1835;

**Court Leet Papers**, 1652—1834, give chiefly names of persons amerced for neglecting to keep the pavement in repair, warrants to constables, etc.;

**Proceedings of the Court of the Clerk of the Market**, 1635—1677;

**Burghmote Books**, papers and registers of freemen and apprentices, ranging from 1551—1835, (book I. contains enrolments of deeds, others, minutes of proceedings in Burghmote and others are registers of admission of freemen or of objections to admissions);

**Elections of Mayors**, 1692—1834, of Town Councillors, 1748—1835, of Jurats, 1793—1819, and of Members of Parliament;

**Relief of the Poor**, documents relating to the, 1587—1618;

**Prison Documents**, [1648]—1729.

Various extracts from these documents occur in local histories.

Some of the above records or extracts are printed in *Accounts of the Corpus Christi Fraternity and Papers relating to the Antiquities of Maidstone, together with a list of Mayors and other Corporate Officers*, by W. B. Gilbert, 1865.

Reference may also be made to *Charters and other documents relating to the King's Town and Parish of Maidstone*. W. R. James, 1825.

### QUEENBOROUGH.

The Municipal Records have been described in *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XXII., by the Rev. C. Eveleigh Woodruff. They include:—

**Charters**, the earliest dated 1 Henry V.; also copy of one of Charles I., n.d.;

**Abstracts of Leases ;**  
**Statute Book ;**  
**Chamberlains' Accounts, from 1611 ;**  
**Churchwardens' Accounts, 1723—1768 ;**  
**Cess Book, 1706 ;**  
**Proceedings of Mayor's Court, 1573—1658 ;**  
**Court Books, 1611—1724 ;**  
**View of Frankpledge, Henry VII.—Henry VIII. ;**  
**Admissions of freemen and actions for debt, from 1533 ;**  
 Loose papers, letters and copies, etc.

### ROCHESTER.

**ADMISSION.**—The Municipal Records of Rochester are kept at the Guildhall, and application for permission to inspect them should be made to the Town Clerk.

**INSTRUMENTS OF SEARCH.**—The collection is reported on by the Hist. MSS. Commission in their ninth report, and is there summed up as being identical in character with those of other cities and boroughs, in that it comprises a series, more or less complete, of royal charters (the earliest 1227, 1266—1377), under which various privileges were enjoyed and a custumal or statute book containing bye-laws and customs observed there. In an article in *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. VI., on the Archives of Rochester, it is also stated that the Municipal Records furnish little material for research until the time of Charles I.

**DOCUMENTS.**—These include :—

**Proceedings of the Admiralty Court, Elizabeth**, which contain many interesting social details. Extracts are given by the Hist. MSS. Com. in their report mentioned above. The one peculiar privilege enjoyed by Rochester was its right to hold Courts of Admiralty.

**Mayors' Accounts, 1460 to end of seventeenth century.**  
*Those for 1578-9—1579-80 are given in Arch. Cant., Vol. II.*

**Chamberlains' Accounts.**



**Rent Rolls and Court Rolls** of the Corporation.  
**Rolls of the Sessions.**  
**Views of Frankpledge.**

The Wardens of Rochester bridge have also some documents in their keeping, but none earlier than the sixteenth century. Copies of earlier documents relating to the bridge are in a MS. volume (Sir Roger Manwood's).

The documents include :—

- Chapel Book** containing a list of benefactors to the bridge ;
- Wardens' Accounts** (in ancient rolls, 15 and 23 Richard II. and 1 Henry IV., in bound volumes from 1592 onwards in an apparently unbroken series) ;
- Deeds**, numerous, relating to the administration of property charged with the sustentation of the bridge ;
- Title Deeds and Accounts of Cobham College** (*vide Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XXVII.) ;
- Watts Charity** ("A breviat of that is yerely and from tyme to tyme to be donne touchyng the poor of the lands and tenements devised by Mr. Watts," etc.).

#### NOTE ON THE GUILDHALL LIBRARY, LONDON.

For permission to search the Archives of the Corporation of the City of London application should be made in writing to the Town Clerk, Guildhall, E.C., and it will then be considered by the Library Committee. No doubt the documents would contain scattered references to Kentish matters, but there does not appear to be any special collection of Kent records among them. Some information about the Judicial Records is given in the 1914 Report on Public Records, *op. cit.*, Ap. II., 11.

The MSS. belonging to the Guildhall Library are accessible to the historical investigator without application in advance.

The Library is open on week-days from 10—8, except Saturdays, 10—6.

The documents are indexed in three MS. volumes, but a

search through these revealed nothing of great importance for Kent.

There are a few leases and releases, indentures and a collection, consisting partly of MS. notes for a history of Dartford and its neighbourhood and partly of cuttings from local newspapers from 1835—38 bearing on the subject, made by John Dunkin.

### THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY, OXFORD.

ADMISSION.—Everyone who desires to be a reader should, unless he be a graduate of the University, obtain a printed form of Recommendation (sent to any address on application to the Library), and procure that it be signed by some one *in a responsible position* who knows the applicant *personally* or can otherwise give a sufficient reason for recommendation. Ordinary cards of introduction or letters which state facts but do not amount to a personal recommendation cannot be accepted in lieu of the form. The form when filled up should be brought at or after 10 a.m. by the applicant himself, when, if the recommendation be accepted and countersigned, he will sign the statutory declaration in two registers, one at the Bodleian, the other at the Camera.

The Bodleian is open throughout the year from 9 a.m. to 3, 4 or 5 p.m., according to the season; the Radcliffe Camera, which only contains modern literature of the last half century, is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The days of closing are:—In the Bodleian building, Jan. 1, Good Friday and Easter-eve, Commemoration-day, Sept. 24—30, Nov. 8 (Nov. 7 when the 8th is a Sunday), the vigil of the Nativity, Dec. 25—31, and Sundays. In the Camera, the four weekdays next before Easter, the three first weekdays in October, the weekday preceding, and the two weekdays following Christmas Day; and Sundays.

INSTRUMENTS OF SEARCH.—*A summary catalogue of the Western MSS. in the Bodleian Library*, by F. Madan, is being published and will supersede the older catalogues.



Vols. III.—VI., 1895—1910, have been issued; Vols. I. and II. will contain a new edition of the old catalogue of 1697, a printed index of which is at the Bodleian. Vol. I. will not be available for three years, but Vol. II. may be consulted by readers at the Bodleian, in proof, at the present time. The volumes are not indexed separately but a general index will be issued when the first six volumes are published; until then there is a MS. card index accessible in the Bodleian. A rough account of the contents is given at the beginning of each volume, giving the searcher some idea of what he will find.

**DOCUMENTS.**—Those concerning the county of Kent will be found more especially under the following headings:—

**Rawlinson MSS.** Statutes.

**Tanner MSS.** Papers relating to Canterbury diocese.

**Gough Collection.** Topography. This collection (which has a separate catalogue printed in 1814) includes a few subsidy rolls and court rolls for Sandwich, 1504; *Monasticon Cantianum* (notes on most of the religious houses of Kent); collections for lists of parochial clergy of Canterbury and Rochester dioceses; surveys of manors.

**Gough Nicolls MSS.** contain notes of antiquarian tours undertaken by Richard Gough, 1759-71; a collection for the history of the Cathedral of Rochester by Dr. John Denne, Archdeacon of Rochester, 1767; and extracts from ecclesiastical records.

For the **Charters and Rolls** in the Bodleian there is the *Calendar of Charter Rolls preserved in the Bodleian Library*, by W. H. Turner, 1878. Documents acquired since that date are noticed in a MS. slip catalogue in the Library. The official copy in the Library contains a large number of corrections and the slip catalogue is on an extremely full scale. The arrangement of the charters (bound and unbound) and the rolls (bound and in boxes) is topographical.

The MSS. of Brasenose College, Hertford (once Magdalen Hall), Jesus, Lincoln, New and University are



deposited at the Bodleian with the collections from the Ashmolean Library and other places.

### UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, CAMBRIDGE.

**ADMISSION.**—Application for permission to consult the MSS. should be made to the Librarian. Persons to whom tickets of admission have been granted are admitted from 9.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Library is closed on the two week-days following March 25th, June 24th, December 21st, Thursday before Easter and the next five days, September 9th to 23rd, Christmas Eve and the next five days.

**INSTRUMENTS OF SEARCH.**—A catalogue of the Western MSS. in 5 vols. and index was issued in 1856—1867. There is a MS. index to the contents of MSS. added since its compilation, and a new edition is in progress.

**DOCUMENTS.**—Those referring to Kent include:—

**Cartulary** of Convent of Christ Church, Canterbury, during the thirteenth century (list of contents minutely given);

**Cartulary** of St. Gregorie's Priory, Canterbury (list of contents minutely given);

**Statuta**, in sixteenth century hand, containing "Statutum Consuetudines Cantie," *circa* Edward I.;

**Valor Ecclesiasticus**, transcript of;

**Year-books**, extracts from;

**Ship Money**, letters respecting the levy of, in Norfolk and Kent, 1636;

**Warrants**, undated, relating to Kentish matters;

**Strype Papers**, relating to matters of antiquarian interest.

### OXFORD COLLEGES.

**ADMISSION.**—Application for admission to College Libraries should be made presumably to the Head, or perhaps in the first instance to the Librarian, who would give information as to the procedure to be observed. The Bodleian Library will receive any MSS. entrusted to it by

the College Libraries for the benefit of readers, and it is of course much easier to work in the Bodleian than under the more restricted conditions of the College Libraries.

**INSTRUMENTS OF SEARCH.**—The Hist. MSS. Commission Reports 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8 deal with the administrative records of some of the colleges, and since many of these possessed lands in Kent their records include deeds and other documents dealing with such possessions.

The *Catalogus Codicum MSS. qui in Collegiis Aulisque Oxoniensibus hodie adservantur*, H. O. Coxe, 2 parts, 1852, includes all the colleges except Christ Church, and is the only catalogue in print, or apparently in existence, of College MSS.

The MSS. of Christ Church are dealt with in the *Catalogus Codicum MSS. Aedis Christi*, G. W. Kitchin, 1867.

**DOCUMENTS.**—The following list will give some indication of the documents of interest for Kentish history in the possession of the several colleges.

**ALL SOULS.**—Papers having reference to the **Cinque Ports** in seventeenth century.

**Lists** of Deputy lieutenants, freeholders, conformists, non-conformists and papists, chiefly seventeenth century.

**Admiralty Papers**, 1672—1680, include references to a tumult at Dover. Coxe, Catalogus.

**CHRIST CHURCH.**—**Archbishop Wake's MSS.** contain diocesan business of the eighteenth century, lists of preachers and so on. *Collectanea ex Regestris Archivorum Cantuar.* G. W. Kitchin, Catalogus.

**CORPUS CHRISTI.**—Various documents relating to **Christ Church, Canterbury**, accounts, list of priors, donations and acquisitions of manors, etc.

Coxe, Catalogus.

**EXETER.**—**Incorporation** of Maidstone, 2 Elizabeth, and of Gravesend and Milton, 10 Elizabeth.

**Charters** relating to lands at Deptford and Lewisham.

**Inspeximus** of Indenture of Henry VIII. concerning Sale of Lands of Sir Thomas Poynings to the King.

Coxe, Catalogus.

**JESUS.**—Various books and charters relating to **St. Augustine's, Canterbury**, including list of church ornaments and reliquaries, *temp.* 1285 and 1315.

Coxe, Catalogus.

**MAGDALEN.**—Documents concerning the **Hospital or Chantry of St. Stephen's and St. Thomas of Canturbury** in Romney annexed to the foundation, 1481.

Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. 4.

Sixty-three **deeds** relating to the above Hospital for Lepers at Romney, 1180—1459.

Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. 8.

**MERTON.**—**Liber Ruber** contains lists with abstracts of all deeds and documents in possession of the college, *temp.* Edward III. under counties.

**Account Rolls.**

Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. 6.

**Statuta Collegii SS. Gregorii et Martini de Wy,** etc., 1447.

Coxe, Catalogus.

**ORIEL.**—**Treasurer's Accounts**, 1409—15, paper book of, including receipts from Kent. Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. 2.

**Anglo-Saxon Laws** and later statutes including Statutum de Gavelkinde.

Coxe, Catalogus.

**QUEEN'S.**—**Deeds** referring to property in Kent.

Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. 2.

**Precedents in Ecclesiastical Courts**, fifteenth century book of.

**Visitations of Kent**, 1574 and 1619 (alphabetical list of names).

**Charter** to Church of Dover granting lands in Sandwich, 979.

**Charters** relating to the Willoughby family.

**List** of captains in fleet with number of ships furnished by ports at siege of Calais, 1346.

**List** of persons who have served the office of Sheriff (Kent names to 6 Charles I.).



## Genealogies of a few Kentish families.

Coxe, Catalogus.

UNIVERSITY.—**Aluredi Regis leges** ex antiquo Roffensi MS. transcriptæ.

Coxe, Catalogus.

## CAMBRIDGE COLLEGES.

ADMISSION.—Application in most cases must be made to the respective Librarians, who will give all the necessary information as to hours and time when search would be most convenient. In no instance would there seem to be any fees.

INSTRUMENTS OF SEARCH.—There are two means of reference to the MS. contents of the College Libraries, viz., the first five reports of the Historical MSS. Commission and the descriptive catalogues of MSS. in the individual Libraries prepared by Dr. M. R. James.

DOCUMENTS.—Those referring to Kent in the several colleges include :—

ST. CATHARINE'S.—**Register** of Corporation of New Romney (earliest entry 26 Edward III.). Calendar of contents given in Hist. MSS. Com. Report 4, and 'Descriptive Cat. of Western MSS.' in the Library of St. C. C., Dr. M. R. James, in the press.

CORPUS CHRISTI.—**Chronicles, Cartularies and Letters** from Christ Church and St. Augustine's, Canterbury and Dover Priory, containing references to local customs, *i.e.*, gavelkind and gavellet.

Among the MSS. bequeathed by Archbishop Parker some references to matters of Kentish interest will be found, *e.g.*, under Statuta, Charta, Miscellanæ, mention is made of the services owed to the King by the Barons of the Cinque Ports. (Descriptive Catalogue of MSS. in the Library of C. C. C., by Dr. M. R. James, 1912.)

EMMANUEL.—**Valor Beneficiorum**, 1627. (Descriptive Cat. of Western MSS. in Library of E. C., by Dr. M. R. James, 1904).

**GONVILLE AND CAIUS.**—Sixteenth century copy of **Canterbury Charters**.

**Consuetudinary** of St. Augustine's, Canterbury (see *Vol. II., Publications of Henry Bradshaw Society, edited by Sir E. M. Thompson, 1904.*)

**Visitations of Kent, 1570 and 1619.**

**Historical Miscellany** (names of burgesses and barons of the Cinque Ports summoned to Parliament, 27 Elizabeth). Folio volume (paper) containing among other items names of gentlemen of Kent, 1614. (Descriptive Cat., etc., Dr. M. R. James, 2 vols., 1907-8.)

**MAGDALENE.**—**Browne Willis Collection** contains account of names of churches and chapels with several of their dedications in the dioceses of Canterbury and Rochester. (Descriptive Catalogue, etc., Dr. M. R. James, 1909.)

**Pepys MSS.** contain reference to parsonage at Maidstone, 1555, and various references to Kentish matters during the period of the Civil War. (Hist. MSS. Com., 1911.)

**QUEEN'S.**—**Lease Books, 1474—1796.** (Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. 1.) These may possibly contain references to Kentish estates. The Library appears to be liberally supplied with books on Kent.

**SIDNEY-SUSSEX.**—**Miscellanea Memorabilia de Parochia Swanscombiensi . . . a J. Lawson, etc.** Contains list of rectors, terrier of the glebe, particulars of Stone Castle Charity, assessments (in an eighteenth century hand). (Descriptive Cat., etc., Dr. M. R. James, 1895.)

**ST. JOHN'S.**—**Ospringe Cartulary.** Written probably *temp.* Edward I.

**Deeds of Monastery of Lillecherche, afterwards Heyham.**

**Mortuary Roll of Amphelisa, Prioress of Lillecherche, circa 1265—1291.**

**Constitutiones Cantuarienses.**

**Canterbury Privileges** (fourteenth century charter hand).

**Statuta Curiae Cant.** (fifteenth century hand).

**Prior Thomas Ringmer** (of Christ Church, Canterbury), contains narrative of quarrel between him and his monks, chiefly after 1280-1, and does not appear to have been used by writers on Canterbury. This may have formed part of a Register.

**Compotus Rolls** of Priory of Lillecherche *temp.* Henry IV. and other dates.

**Book of Accounts** of Priory of Lillecherche, Henry VII.

(Descriptive Cat., etc., Dr. M. R. James, 1913, and Hist. MSS. Com. Report 1.)

**TRINITY.—Constitutiones Provinciales Cantuar.** (fifteenth century hand).

**Statuta Curiae Cantuariensis** (fifteenth century hand).

**Statuta**, 1438, includes Articles of eyres in Kent, Les Usages de Kent, Charters of Romney Marsh, Liberties, Donations and acquisitions of manors of Christ Church, Canterbury, from Ethelbert to Archb. Arundell.

**Manors of Prior and Convent of C. C., Canterbury**, in different counties.

(Descriptive Cat., etc., Dr. M. R. James, 2 vols., 1900-1.)

**TRINITY HALL.—Cartulary** of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, printed in the Rolls series.

#### NOTE ON THE LIBRARIES OF THE INNER TEMPLE, LINCOLN'S INN AND OTHER LEGAL BODIES.

The Libraries of these bodies are for the use of members only, but permission to inspect the documents would probably be granted to genuine students. The collections were reported on by the Select Committee on Public Records, 1800, whence some of the following details have been gathered.

The MSS. of the Inner Temple are detailed under subject



headings, and under the heading *Miscellanea* occurs the sub-heading 'Cinque Ports.'

The Petyt collection, to which, under the terms of the bequest, the public have the right of access, forms part of this Library, and particulars of its contents will be found in Reports 2 and 11 of Hist. MSS. Commission.

This collection includes the following matters relating to Kent:—

A paper on the state and force of the ports and other maritime towns in Kent bearing reference more expressly to the tonnage of the vessels and boats of the various places and the landing places in the county, and also a list of houses in the various sea-port towns of Kent, 1565.

Life of Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury.

The collection of MSS. at Lincoln's Inn consists largely of MSS. bequeathed by Lord Chief Justice Hale, and includes transcripts of *Itinera Placita*, etc., *Kantixæ*, temp. Edward I. and 6 Edward II., and Year-books, and notes from Registers of Archbishops of Canterbury.

See also *Three catalogues, describing . . . MSS, in the Library of the Hon. Society of Lincoln's Inn*, Joseph Hunter, 1838.

## THE COLLEGE OF ARMS OR HERALDS' COLLEGE.

ADMISSION.—The documents at the College of Arms or Heralds' College, Queen Victoria Street, E.C., although in a sense official, in that they are admitted as evidence in a court of law, are, in another, private; for the collection, mainly of use for genealogical purposes, is not open to the general historical searcher, although in exceptional cases students have been allowed to examine the Arundel MSS. and the Shrewsbury letters. Searches, however, are undertaken by the officers on payment of certain fees: 5s. for an ordinary search, 10s. 6d. if by correspondence; £2 2s. for a general search through the records, and £5 5s. for a general search through the records and the collections.

Any person can apply at the college for a search to be

made and the work will be undertaken by the herald and pursuivant in attendance for that month. If, however, any of the officers are known personally, or through the introduction of a friend, the applicant would go direct to the private room of such officer who would then conduct the required search.

**INSTRUMENTS OF SEARCH.**—No catalogue or index has ever been published of the contents of the college, and the calendar of the Arundel MSS. belonging to the college, compiled by W. H. Black with an introduction by Sir G. C. Young, is the only printed catalogue of MSS. lodged there.

**DOCUMENTS.**—The official records consist of :—

- (1) A series of **Visitation Books** containing the pedigrees and arms of the nobility and gentry of the kingdom, 21 Henry VIII. to end of seventeenth century.

For details of printed and unprinted visitations see the *Genealogist*, New Series, I., II., III., articles by Dr. Marshall, Rouge Croix, in *Arch. Cant.*, Vols. IV., V., VI., X.

W. Berry in *County Genealogies, Pedigrees of Families of Kent* (London, 1830), has printed a number of pedigrees from the visitations of the county including that for 1619. A transcript of this, from a copy in the Surrenden Collection, was begun by Dr. J. J. Howard.

- (2) **Books of Modern Records**; miscellaneous pedigrees recorded since the discontinuance of Visitations.
- (3) **Books of Pedigrees**; arms of peers compiled pursuant to standing orders of House of Lords, 11th May, 1767.
- (4) **Book of Pedigrees and Arms of Baronets** under a royal warrant of December 3rd, 1782, "for correcting and preventing abuses in the order of Baronets."
- (5) **Funeral Certificates**. These contain attested accounts of the time of death, place of burial, of marriages and issue of the several families of the nobility and gentry whose funerals were attended by officers of arms or their deputies.
- (6) Books containing accounts of **Royal Marriages, Coronations, Funerals**, etc.



- (7) **Earl Marshall's Books**, from the time of Elizabeth, containing entries of instruments and warrants relating to arms of the blood royal, licences from the crown for change of name or arms, or for acceptance of foreign honours.
- (8) **Grants of Arms**, down to the present day.

There are also collections consisting of MS. volumes, the accumulated labours of many distinguished members of the College, and including a large collection of transcripts of Parish Registers.

The **Arundel MSS.** contain a few items of interest to Kent, see more particularly "Accounts of Receivers of Crown Lands, 7-14 Henry VIII.," which include surveys of estates and court rolls of the manor of Westerham in the possession of Westminster Abbey.

## LIBRARY OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

**ADMISSION.**—Students introduced by a fellow may be admitted to the Library, for a period not exceeding one week, to consult printed books and MSS. not of a private nature.

**INSTRUMENTS OF SEARCH.**—'A Catalogue of MSS. in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries of London,' by Sir H. Ellis, 1816, gives particulars of the collection and documents referring to Kent are indexed under that heading.

**DOCUMENTS.**—These include :—

**Heralds' Visitations**, extracts from.

**Parish Registers**, extracts from.

**Ancient Deeds**, transcripts of, relating to Parish of Penshurst.

**Lists of Arms** belonging to gentry of Kent.

**Codex Chartaceous**, containing 'Registrum Brevium ad Comitatum Kancie Spectantium.'

Various documents relating to Rochester Bridge, including **Sir Roger Manwood's Discourse**.



Transcripts of ancient deeds relating to churches and monasteries in the diocese of Rochester, printed in *Registrum Roffense*.

Folio book containing, among other items, names of tenants paying Castle-guard rent to Dover Castle, 1 Edward IV., and customs of Kent.

A bundle entitled **Textus Roffensis** in some cases more perfect than the MS. used by Hearne.

### K.A.S. COLLECTION, MAIDSTONE MUSEUM.\*

ADMISSION.—To members of the Society on Thursdays from 10 a.m.; to non-members, under the guidance of a member of the Council K.A.S.

INSTRUMENTS OF SEARCH.—‘Descriptive Catalogue of Documents,’ *Arch. Cant.*, XXV., p. 256.

MS. Catalogue of discoveries in Kent, arranged in periods, with reference to O.S. maps and to descriptions in various publications (in progress).

DOCUMENTS.—The collection includes:—

One vol. of photographs of churches, castles, etc., from drawings by H. Petrie, 1797—1813.

One vol. of original drawings of antiquities.

One vol. of letters *re* K.A.S., Lambert B. Larking, 1861.

Complete set of 6" O.S. maps of Kent, with sites of discoveries marked, forming an Archæological Survey of the County (in progress).

### MAIDSTONE PUBLIC REFERENCE LIBRARY,\* MAIDSTONE MUSEUM.

ADMISSION.—Free, from 10 a.m. daily.

DOCUMENTS.—The Library includes the following MSS. and documents:—

Codex of Kent, 24 vols., in handwriting of L. B. Larking,

\* Communicated by the Rev. Canon G. M. Livett, F.S.A.

vol. 16 quarto, the rest folio. Vols. 1, 2, contain a Cartulary of Ryarsh and Addington; vol. 3, Ryarsh Registers; vols. 4—8, 24, *Pedes finium*, 1218—1371; vols. 9—17, *Cartularium de Surrenden* (transcripts of the Surrenden collection now dispersed); vols. 18—21, Calendar of ditto; vols. 22, 23, *Miscellanea* (not indexed).

MS. Note Books of L. B. Larkin, 31 vols., with index in 2 vols.; and a number of miscellaneous note books of L. B. L., not indexed.

Collections for the history of the borough of Maidstone, in 8 thick folio vols., by Clement Taylor Smythe, formerly Town Clerk.

Two imp. vols. of Etchings and Drawings relating to Kent (with index) by Edward Pretty (1792—1865).

Two fo. vols. of Etchings and Drawings (with index) by Dr. Thomas Charles, made 1816—44.

Series of maps of County and Borough, about 50, indexed.

Collection of plans of estates in County.

Some deeds, etc., unsorted.

## PRIVATE COLLECTIONS.

It is not possible here to give more than some slight indication of the documents relating to Kent that exist in private custody. Access to them is of course at all times a matter of courtesy on the part of the owners, but there are few, one imagines, who would refuse any particular information it was in their power to give to a genuine searcher; or an inspection of the documents might possibly be allowed under certain conditions.

The chief sources from which knowledge of the contents of private collections must be drawn are the Reports of the Royal Commission on Historical MSS.\*

The collections reported on by the Commission include a

\* A Guide to these Reports is being prepared, of which Part I., just issued, is a Topographical Index; this will in future greatly facilitate reference to their contents and supplement the information here given.

great number of letters of the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, both of a private and official nature, containing in many cases interesting references to Kentish matters and throwing light on military duties in the county. Such information can be supplemented by the muster lists given; there are also lists of knights of the shire, recusants and so on.

See more especially :—

Report V.—Collection of EVELYN P. SHIRLEY, Esq., of Ettington Hall, co. Warwick. **Arms** of all gentlemen of Kent, *temp.* James I.

Collection of the DUKE OF SUTHERLAND at Trent-ham, co. Stafford. **Letters and Papers of Sir John Leveson** relating to county of Kent, 1582—1614.

Report VII.—Collection of W. M. MOLYNEUX, Esq., of Loseley Park, Guildford. **Ship Money** in Kent. “A note of the dayes of payment unto mee of the shipp money,” 1637.

Report XIII., Ap. IV.—Collection of E. R. WODEHOUSE, Esq. Council letter to High Sheriff of Kent concerning manner of assessing the clergy for **Ship Money**, 1636.

Report on MSS. in possession of A. G. FINCH, Esq., Burley-on-the-Hill, Rutland, issued in 1913. Signet letter of Queen Mary to Commissioners for **Musters** in Kent and other references to military activities.

Similar information may be found scattered throughout the HATFIELD COLLECTION, which is briefly listed in Reports III., IV., V. VI. and VII., and more fully given in the *Calendars of MSS., 1306—1602, preserved in Hatfield House, Hertfordshire*, 12 parts, issued 1883—1910, *e.g.* :—

Part 3.—**Knights of the Shire**, 1587.

Part 4.—**List of Recusants** in Kent remaining at liberty 1592.

**Estimate of Goods** saved upon the coast of Kent, 1593.

Part 5.—**List of Muster Masters and Musters**, 1595.



Part 6.—Preparation of **Voyage to Cadiz** (Calles) ; notes by the Earl of Essex of the captains and their companies and of the counties from which they come, 1596.

Note of arms from expedition for Cadiz (Callaies) recovered in Kent, 1596.

Part 8.—**Letters** between mayor of Boulogne (Bullen) and Earl of Essex about allowing people to enter England *via* Dover without pass-ports (fear of Jesuit spies), 1598.

Part 10.—**Examination** of various people (one Thomas Finch of Mylton in Kent is an avowed Papist). 1600.

Part 12. **List of Felons** in Kent. 1602.

Documents of a legal character are also found in this and other collections, *e.g.* :—

Part 1.—Order of the **Court of Star Chamber** for a new trial between Sir Thomas Wyatt, owner of the lordship of Hoo, and the mayor, etc., of Rochester in connection with the dredging, gathering and laying of mussels within the limits of “Sherenasshe” and Hawkwood, 1540.

Report IV.—Collection of **LORD MOSTYN**, at Mostyn Hall. A volume with various **Statutes of the Realm**, and at the end in another hand, “*Consuetudines Kantie*” with date, 1447.

Report IX.—Collection of the **EARL OF LEICESTER**, Holkham Hall, Norfolk. **Pleas** at York, Canterbury and other places, 1283—1322.

References to the **Cinque Ports** are frequent, but the following appear to be the most important in this connection :—

Report II.—Collection of **H. B. MACKESON, Esq.**, of Hythe, co. Kent. **Letters and Papers** touching the concerns and management of Hythe and its relation with the other Cinque Ports (17th cent.).

Fragment of **Roll of Expenses** first half of fourteenth century, and fragment of accounts of payment of the "*Brodhulle*," *temp.* Edward III.

**Book of Accounts** of Guild of Assumption of Virgin Mary, Edward IV., Henry VII. and Henry VIII.

**Accounts**, Chamberlains', Jurats', etc., 15th, 17th and 18th cent.

**Churchwardens' Accounts**, *temp.* Henry IV.

Collection of **LORD CALTHORPE**, Grosvenor Square, London. Copies of **Charters** and other papers relating to the Cinque Ports.

The finest collection reported on by the Commission, as regards Kent, is that of **LORD MIDDLETON** at Wollaton Hall, Nottinghamshire, in a volume issued in 1911.

Under the heading of **Manorial Records**, **Court Rolls**, **Accounts**, **Rentals**, etc., will be found a long list of Kentish places: Aylesford and Larkfield Hundred, Bore Place (parish of Chiddingstone), Brasted, Burham, Chedyington-Burghershe, Chiddingstone, Harringe, Hever Brocas, Hever Cobham, Hever, Hundred of Hoo, Ightham, Penshurst, Reinsleigh (parish of Penshurst), Sellinge, Sundridge. The earliest document recorded is the rental of the Manor of Sonderesse (Sundridge), 1257-8, and the latest the Court roll of the manor of Chedyington Burghersh, 1586. But there are apparently seventeenth and eighteenth century Court rolls preserved among the collection.

**Deeds** are summarised under counties, and besides the places in Kent mentioned above refer to Borstall Manor (parish of Rochester?), Burmarsh, Chevening, Dymchurch, Foot's Cray, Halstow, Leeds, Leigh, Lympne, Romney Marsh, Sandwich, Sevenoaks, Shoreham, Somerden, Speldhurst and Woolwich.

The collection also includes a few **Royal Charters**,

relating to Kentish lands, copies of wills, drafts and probates. Amongst the **Miscellaneous Rolls**, books and papers, there are:—

A roll giving list of possessions of villeins in Linintone and Barmling, [*c.* 1300] ;

A subsidy roll of one fifteenth of ‘le Upland de Borgh de Sondressh in australi parte,’ 1418 ;

A bundle of papers relating to a suit in Chancery between John Jernyngham and John Forster concerning the manors of Sellinge and Harringe in 1490-1 ;

There are also various inventories, including one of the goods of Sir Ralph Faine, kt., at Penshurst, 1551.

Many references among the household accounts are also of interest, *e.g.*, ‘for byeng of catell at feyer of Gravysende, at Brasksted, Cowden,’ etc.

Of a similar character are the references to Kent in the following collections:—

Report III.—Collections of LORD DE L’ISLE AND DUDLEY, at Penshurst.

**Household Books.**

**Miscellaneous Volumes** (Gravesend and Milton, orders and constitutions . . . . for direction . . . . of watermen, *temp.* Eliz.).

**Miscellanea** (extents).

**Robertsbridge Deeds** (refer to a few places in Kent).

Report IV. and VII.—Collection of LORD SACKVILLE, at Knole Park.

**Accounts** of household expenses and other documents of a personal nature, not relating to land.

Report X.—Collection of the EARL OF WESTMORLAND, Apethorpe, Northants.

**Agreements** entered into by Sir Francis Fane and some workmen for alterations at Mereworth Castle, 1610.



**Names of J.P's, 1605.**

Letter from Privy Council enquiring about  
**recusants, 1612.**

**Report IV.**—Collection of COLONEL TOWNELEY, Towneley Hall, Burnley.

An account of the several **Bailiffs, Sheriffs, Custos's** (*sic*) and **Lord Mayors** of the city of London, who either themselves or their ancestors or immediate descendants possessed lands in the county of Kent (first entry, A.D. 1209 : last entry, 1705).

**Registrum Hospital' de Eastbridge** in Cant., fourteenth century.

**Cartulary** of Hospital of St. James extra muros civitatis Cantuariæ, A.D. 1471.

**A Collection of MSS.** relating to the county of Kent, including a description of the parishes arranged in alphabetical order ; Leland's Itinerary ; Sir R. Twisden's Discourse on the Weald of Kent ; Liberties of the Cinque Ports.

The following Private Collections are mentioned in *Archæologia Cantiana* :—

**DALISON COLLECTION.**—Charters and Rent Rolls, Vol. XV.

Letters, Vol. XVII.

**Expense Book of James Master, 1646—76, Vols. XV., XVI., XVII., XVIII.**

**ROYDON HALL MSS.**—

**Sir Roger Twysden's Journal, 1640, Vols. I., II., III., IV.**

**CAPTAIN H. STREATFEILD.**—

**Inventory of Church Goods at Edenbridge, 3 Henry VIII., Vol. XXI.**

**SURRENDEN COLLECTION** (now dispersed, see p. 157), Vols. I., II., IV.

**Inventory of Goods of Lady Juliana de Leyborne, Vol. I.**

**Charter of Philip Augustus of France, 1180, to monks of Canterbury, Vol. IV.**

**MSS.** relating to Goudhurst and neighbourhood,  
Vol. XXVIII.

**Receipts and Expenses** of Sir John Scott, 1463—  
66, Vol. X.

Extracts from **Account Books** of Captain John  
Harvey, R.N., Mayor of Sandwich, 1774—5, Vol. XX.

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## APPENDIX.

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### TRANSLATIONS.

P. 5. ✚ Our Lord Jesus Christ reigning eternally, and from the highest heaven governing in order all things visible and invisible, and the course of our present life daily growing less, and since from us mortals temporal treasure as well as the gain of possessions depart and flow as we vainly enjoy them; therefore I, Æthelstan, under the smile of divine grace, king of the English and guardian of all Britain, willingly grant as a perpetual gift a certain portion of land, which is my right, to a certain faithful servant of mine, Ealdulf, [to wit], twelve dwelling houses [? hides], in that place, to which the inhabitants, in common parlance and playful words, have given the name of Meapham, in order that he may fully enjoy and perpetually possess [the same], so long as he shall presume to hold life of this fleeting time, and afterwards let him leave [the same] to an heir, whomsoever he wishes, or whom we have confirmed [as such], for ever in eternal inheritance. Moreover let the aforesaid land with all that duly pertains to it, fields, pastures, meadows, woods, be free from all worldly burdens except these three, expedition and the building of bridge or fortress. But if anyone, which heaven forbid, shall, walking in the garb of pride, try to infringe this our definition let him suffer from the chill winds of ice and from the winged army of malignant spirits, unless with tearful groans of penitence and sincere reformation he first make amends. The aforesaid land is contained within these boundaries. These are the landmarks, etc.

This aforesaid donation was made in the year from the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 939, Indiction 12.

✚ I, Æthelstan, King of all Britain, have confirmed the aforesaid donation with the sign of the Holy Cross, etc., etc.

P. 7. Edward, King, greet in friendliness all my bishops and my earls, and my sheriffs, and all my thegns in those shires, where Stigand, archbishop, and the brotherhood of Christ's Church in Canterbury have land. And I make known to you that I have granted to them that they be their sac and soc worthy on strand and in stream, in wood and in field, toll and team, grithbreach and hamsoene, forstall and infangthief, and flemeneferd, over their own men, within burg and without, as full and as forth as my own bailiff could seek for; and over as many thegns as I have permitted

them; and I will not that any man bring any accusation therein, except themselves and their bailiffs to whom they shall entrust it; for the reason that I have given these rights for my soul's eternal redemption as Cnut, King, did formerly; and I will not suffer that any man break this by my friendship.

P. 7. William, son of king William, to the Sheriff of Kent, greeting. Cause to be recognized by the men of the hundred of M. what customs the abbot of St Augustine's ought to have in the vill of N. and what he formerly had. And such as he formerly had cause him to have without delay and expressly with this help.

Witness, etc.

P. 8. Henry, king of the English, to R. bishop of R., greeting. Hold full right between the Abbot of St A. and between the arch-deacon of C. concerning the priests of the abbey of St A.; so that the abbot may have his customs concerning his priests as fully as abbot S. had them.

Witness, &c.

P. 9. M., empress, etc., to the barons, etc., greeting. Know ye that I have granted to Christ Church, London, and to the canons there serving God, in perpetual alms, for the souls of my father and of my mother, and for the salvation of my own soul, the land which P. E. gave them in the vill of B., and 7 shillings' worth of land which P. bought from the men of that vill, and 8 shillings' worth of land of Æ., and the land of C. with all things, places, customs and franchises belonging to the same lands, free and quit of all conditions except the king's service. Further I grant to them pasturage for 10 oxen with my oxen, in plain and wood, and 10 pigs, without pannage; and moreover I forbid, under penalty to me, that any one dare to inflict any injury or contumely on the men or on the possessions belonging to the said Church, because I will not that the Church lose its right or liberty in any thing in my time.

Witness, etc.

P. 9. The king to the archbishops, etc., greeting. Know ye. that we by our special grace have granted and by this our charter have confirmed to our beloved clerk, Master H. C., that he and his heirs for ever may have free warren in all his demesne lands at B., in the county of Kent, and at G. in the county of Nottingham. Provided that these lands be not within the bounds of our forest, so that no one may enter those lands for the chase or to take anything that appertains to the warren without the licence and wish of the said H. or of his heirs under penalty to us of £10. Wherefore we wish and firmly command for ourselves and our heirs that the said H., etc. Provided that, etc. Witness, etc. Given by our hand at C., 12<sup>th</sup> day of July.



P. 10. The King to the archbishops, etc., greeting. We have inspected the charter of the lord Stephen of famous memory, formerly king of England, our progenitor, in these words. Stephen, king of the English, etc. We have also inspected the charter of the lord Henry of illustrious memory, sometime king of England, our progenitor, in these words. Henry, king of the English and duke of the Normans, etc., to the justices, etc., greeting. I command that the men of the monks of F. of their manor of F. be quit of toll throughout all England, they and all that they can certify to be theirs. Witness, etc. We have moreover inspected a certain other charter of our same progenitor in these words, H., king of the English, etc. Know ye that I have granted to the Church and to the monks of F. that they may have and receive royal fish in the fisheries of S., which the men of S. hold of us. Wherefore I command that in future they hold these fisheries of the said monks, nevertheless doing to us and to our heirs the customs and services formerly due and customary; and the aforesaid monks shall render to us and to our heirs at the manor of M. twenty shillings per annum for all other services and demands which those men used to render to us. Witness, etc. We also, for ourselves and for our heirs as much as in us lies, ratify and freely grant and confirm the aforesaid donation, grants, and order to our beloved in Christ, J., now abbot of F., and to the monks of that place, and to their successors, as the aforesaid charters reasonably testify, and as the same abbot and monks and their predecessors have hitherto held the said manors, together with their appurtenances, and have reasonably used and enjoyed the aforesaid franchises. Given, etc.

P. 11. The king to all to whom these present letters may come, greeting. Know ye that we have granted and given licence, as much as in us lies, to our beloved I. S. of Sandwich that he may give and grant a certain vessel of his, called a 'navell,' lying in the port of S., to I. M. of B., staying at La R. in France, in exchange for a certain other vessel of the said I. M., called a 'karicon,' similarly lying in the aforesaid port, all statutes, ordinances, proclamations, inhibitions, or commands made to the contrary notwithstanding; provided that it can be done without damage and prejudice to us and to our realm of England. In testimony whereof we have caused these our letters patent to be made. Witness the king, etc.

The king, etc., greeting. Know ye that whereas our beloved in Christ the prior of R. has made a certain fine of 100 marks with us in our Chancery for our licence to appropriate to himself and to his successors the church of B., to hold for ever, we, of our special grace, have forgiven the same prior the said fine of 100 marks, not wishing that he or his successors or the aforesaid house should be impleaded, disturbed in any way, or molested or oppressed on account of the said fine of 100 marks by us or by our heirs, or



by any one of our ministers in future times, but that they may be quit and altogether exonerated for ever thereof as against us and our heirs. In testimony whereof we have caused these our letters patent to be made. Witness the king, etc.

P. 12. The king to the Sheriff of Kent, greeting. Because we will that there should be a market weekly on Thursdays at our manor of M. in the aforesaid county, and a fair there yearly, lasting four days, viz., on the vigil and on the festival of St. M. and on the two days next following, which said manor is in the hands of I., queen of England, our dearest consort, we command you that you cause the aforesaid market and fair to be publicly proclaimed throughout your whole county and held. Witness the king, etc.

P. 13. S. of O. and I. his wife give one mark for a certain writ of mort d'ancestor. Witness the king, etc.

The king has committed the county of Kent and the king's castle of C., together with its appurtenances, to the charge of his beloved and trusty W. M. from Michaelmas next, during the king's pleasure, so that he may render the due farms yearly to the king at his exchequer, and may answer to the king at the same exchequer for the debts of the king and all else pertaining to the office of sheriff of the aforesaid county, and the custody of that castle as other sheriffs of the said county and custodians of that castle have hitherto been accustomed to render and answer for. In testimony, etc. Witness the king, etc.

By the Council.

And the archbishops, etc., of the county of Kent are commanded to aid and assist the same W. as the king's sheriff of the county aforesaid and custodian of that castle in all things pertaining to that custody. In testimony, etc. Witness the king, etc.

By the Council.

And T. B. is commanded to deliver over to the same W. to be kept in manner aforesaid the aforesaid county, together with the rolls, writs, memoranda, and all else touching that office, as well as the aforesaid castle, together with all armaments, victuals, and all other things belonging to the king in the same, which are in his custody, by an indenture to be made between the said T. and W. Witness as above.

By the Council.

P. 15. Edward, by the grace of God, etc. To the honourable father in God by the same grace, J., bishop of Norwich, our chancellor, greeting. Enclosed we send you herewith a bill which was given us by W. C. concerning some mineral (?) that has been found at R. in the county of Kent, and we command you that having seen the said bill and listened to the exposition which the said W. may more fully make thereof, call to you those of our council and take full advice and do that which you shall see to be most to our profit. Given under our privy seal at C. the sixth day of March the thirteenth year of our reign.

E., etc., to the venerable father in Christ, J., by the same grace bishop of N., our chancellor, greeting. Whereas at the request of our beloved and trusty B. B., steward of our household, we have granted and given licence for us and for our heirs, as much as in us lies, to our beloved in Christ the prior and convent of L., that they may appropriate and hold to their own uses, to them and their successors for ever, notwithstanding the statute of mortmain, the church of C. by L. in the diocese of C., of which, as it is said, the advowson is theirs. We command you that you cause the said prior, etc., to have our letters of grant and licence in due form under our great seal. Given under our privy seal at R. 21<sup>st</sup> of March in the 13<sup>th</sup> year of our reign.

Greeting and good friendship, because, considering the great need that we have of ships, it behoves us to provide ourselves [thereof] as quickly as we may, we will that you cause to be summoned by letters under our great seal to Shoreham, etc., and all other ports where there are any fishing boats or doggers which can carry horses, to whatever lordship they belong; and, leaving all excuses, that they be at our disposal at the place where we shall embark, on the day on which other ships are assigned to be there, and according as our dear servant N. P. will tell you more plainly from us by word of mouth. Given under our secret seal at W. 13<sup>th</sup> of September the 11<sup>th</sup> year of our reign.

P. 20. An inquisition concerning the priory of C., made by order of the lord king before G. C. and S. N. on Thursday next following the Close of Easter in the 12<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our lord king John, what and how much stock of the aforesaid priory R. of T. received when he took over the custody after the death of R. of C., *i.e.*, on the festival of S<sup>t</sup> Michael in that year; and what and how much was found in the aforesaid priory at the said inquisition on the said Thursday.

HOLLINGBOURN. G. E., chief steward, G. W. and others, reeves, G., son of R., and others, jurors, say that there is received in the same vill of fixed rent, £27 2s. 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. at the four terms of the year. And 40s. in annual gift. And [ ] sticks of eels at mid-lent. And 4 buckets of honey of 8 gallons at the Nativity of the Blessed Mary. And 3 carts at the festival of S<sup>t</sup> John. And 3 pairs of wheels for the carts at Xmas. And 16 ploughshares per annum. And 2 wethers in autumn. And 5 ewes and 5 lambs at Easter. And 100 hens at Xmas and a thousand eggs at Easter. And 6 Tons of iron. And they say that R. of T. found there of grain: 16 seams of wheat, and 16 seams of barley, and 22 seams of corn in grange, and 12 seams of mixed wheat, issue of the mill within the aforesaid term. And the custodians of the manor received within the said term £4 6s. for wood sold. As regards utensils there were 1 pan and 2 basins and 2 coulter and 2 tripods and



3 tuns. They also say that on the Thursday next after Hokeday there were found there 5 ewes and 5 lambs, 24 acres sown with the lord's corn and 1 acre at the half. And 3 acres of vetches at the 3<sup>rd</sup> sheaf together with 16 acres with oats at the 3<sup>rd</sup> sheaf, and the aforesaid utensils.

P. 22.—(A). Henry, etc. Whereas R. A. who held of us in chief has died, as we understand, we command you to take into our hands without delay all lands and tenements of which the same R. was seised in his demesne as of fee in your bailiwick on the day on which he died, and to have them safely kept until we shall otherwise command you; and by the oath of honest and lawful men of your said bailiwick, by whom the truth of the matter may be better known, diligently to enquire how many lands and tenements the same R. held of us in chief, as well in demesne as in service, in your said bailiwick on the day on which he died; and how many of others, and by what service, and how much those lands and tenements are worth yearly in all issues; and on what day the said R. died, and who is his next heir, and of what age. And the inquisition thereon distinctly and openly made send without delay, under your seal and the seals of those by whom it has been made, to us in our chancery together with this writ.

Witness myself, etc.

(B) It was delivered to the court the 7<sup>th</sup> day of May in the unwritten year by the hand of the escheator.

Indented inquisition taken at R., Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> April, in the sixth year of the reign of King Henry VII. before W. M., escheator of the king in the aforesaid county by virtue of the king's writ of *diem clausit extremum* directed to the said escheator, and sewn to this inquisition, by the oath of I. W., etc., who say on their oath that R. A., late of G. in the aforesaid county, gentleman, named in the said writ, was seised on the day he died in his demesne as of fee of and in 2 messuages, 2 gardens, 2 dovecots, 400 acres of land, 200 acres of pasture, 300 acres of marsh, 40 acres of wood with the appurtenances in G., etc., and they say that the above 2 messuages, 2 gardens, 2 dovecots, 380 acres of land, 172 acres of pasture, 300 acres of marsh, 40 acres of wood with the appurtenances in G., etc., are held of I., archbishop of C., as in right of his church, but by what services the said jurors are entirely ignorant. And that the above 8 acres of land and 4 acres of pasture with the appurtenances in R. are held of J. B., knight, lord of C., but by what services the said jurors are entirely ignorant. And that the above 12 acres of land, 8 acres of pasture with the appurtenances in R. are held of I., abbot of the Blessed Mary of Graces, by London, as in right of his church, but by what services the said jurors are entirely ignorant. And that the above 16 acres of pasture in R. with the appurtenances are held of W., master of the hospital of St K., by the Tower of London, as in right of his church, but by what



services, etc. (as above). And they say that the above messuages, etc., are worth 40 marks a year, net, and no more. And they further say that the aforesaid R. A. on the day he died held to their knowledge no other lands or tenements in the said county in demesne or in service, and that the said R. A. died on the 8<sup>th</sup> May last past. And they say that H. A. is his son and next heir, and is aged 33 years and more. In witness whereof the said escheator and the said jurors have severally put their seals to this said indented inquisition. Given the day and year above mentionod.

P. 24. An inquisition taken before T. B., sheriff of Kent at C., on Monday before the feast of the Annunciation in the 11<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of E. III., by virtue of the king's writ directed to the said sheriff, by the oath of H. B., etc., who say that it is not to the damage or prejudice of the king, or of his heirs, or of any others whomsoever, for the king to grant to his citizens of the city of C., that they and their heirs and successors may have and exercise for ever the assize of bread and ale, the custody and assay of weights and measures and all else pertaining to a market in the said city and its suburbs, and may punish in due manner transgressors of the said assize of bread and ale, and may correct and amend any defects of weights and measures or other things pertaining to the said market, so that the clerk of the market or any servant of the king or of his heirs may not enter the said city or its suburbs to do or execute anything pertaining to the market; nevertheless if there should happen to be found any defect in the cognition or assay aforesaid in the presence of the king within the said city and suburbs, that then the chancellor of the king, or of his heirs, for the time being, shall cause the bailiffs of the said city to come before him within the said city or its suburbs, and may have the defect, of whatsoever kind, there corrected and amended by himself or by others whom he shall depute for that purpose. They say also that this cognition and assay and the fines and amercements arising therefrom may be worth to the said citizens of C. in all issues and easements according to their true value 20s. sterling per annum.

In witness, etc.

P. 27. H. VIII., etc., to the sheriff of Kent, greeting. Whereas S. N. of Y. in your county, clothier, has on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of November in the 16<sup>th</sup> year of our reign, before J. Y., knight, then mayor of the staple of W., appointed to accept recognizances of debtors in the same staple, acknowledged that he owes to H. H. of H., in the county of B., merchant, £35 sterling, which he should have paid on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of February then next ensuing, and has not as yet paid him, as was said, we commanded you lately, by our writ, that you should take the body of the aforesaid S., if he were a layman, and keep him in safe custody in our prison until he should have fully satisfied the said H. concerning the aforesaid debt, and should cause all goods and chattels of the said S. in your bailiwick

to be carefully extended and valued, according to their true value, by the oath of honest and lawful men of your same bailiwick, by whom the truth of the matter might be better known, and to be seized into our hand so that we should cause them to be delivered to the said H. according to the form of the ordinance thereon made until the said debt should be fully made up to him. And how you had executed our said command you were by your sealed letters to make known to us in our chancery, wherever it should be, on the third day now past, and you were to have there the aforesaid writ. And whereas you returned to us in our said chancery that S. N., on the day of the acknowledgment of the debt . . . . was seised . . . . of and in a messuage, etc., in Y., which said messuage, etc., was valued at £5 13s. 4d. per annum net, and that you had caused all and singular to be seized into our hands . . . . and that the said S. N. on the day of the recognizance aforesaid, nor ever after, had any other lands, etc., in the said county that could in any manner be extended, valued or taken into our hands, neither was he found in the same; we command you to deliver to the same H. H. the messuage, etc., if he will accept them at the aforesaid valuation, to hold to himself and his assigns as his free tenement, until he shall be fully satisfied concerning the said debt together with the damages, costs, and expenses which he has reasonably sustained in this matter. And nevertheless have the body of the said S. N. in safe custody in form aforesaid. And how you shall have executed this our command make known to us . . . . on the quindene of St Martin next following . . . . And have there this writ.

Witness myself, etc.

*Endorsed.*

I certify to our lord the king in his chancery that by virtue of this writ on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, in the year within written, I caused to be delivered to the within named H. H. the within mentioned messuage, etc., according to the within written valuation of £5 13s. 4d., in execution of the within written £35, to be held to the same H. and his assigns as his free tenement until he shall be fully satisfied concerning the said £35, together with his damages and expenses, in this matter reasonably sustained, as it is within commanded me.

R. C., knight, sheriff.

P. 28. H. D., senior, and B. B. have acknowledged that they owe the king 1000 marks, viz.: each of them 500 marks, to be paid to the king on demand, and should they not do so, they have granted that the said money may be levied on their lands and chattels in the counties of S., K. and elsewhere. Witness, the king, etc.

And note that the king has willed and granted that if the said H. and B., whom the king has sent upon his affairs to the Roman Curia, should procure the king's object against the Pope, in tithes



or any other way, up to the sum of 2000 marks at least, that then the said H. and B. may be quit of the said 1000 marks, otherwise the king wills that the aforesaid 1000 marks be levied on the lands and chattels of the said H. and B.

This recognizance was made in the presence of the said king at S., Master H. de C. announcing it in form aforesaid.

P. 28-29. J., by divine providence archbishop of C., primate of all England and Metropolitan, for the matters herein written lawfully empowered by the authority of the Parliament of England, to our beloved in Christ, A. S., of the parish of S<sup>t</sup> L, in the county of K., gentleman, greeting and grace. Since laws established for the benefit of all may desire to remit somewhat of their rigour for the welfare of individuals, we, partly on account of your own report and partly from the testimony of others worthy of belief, understanding that the eating of fish is harmful to your bodily health, out of affection for your well-being, permit and indulge you, together with your wife and with two others, whomsoever you may choose and invite to your table, that you may with due thanksgiving on days and at times publicly prohibited, partake of meat. We will nevertheless that you do this soberly and frugally, with caution and for the avoiding of public scandal, as far as it may be possible to be done, in private and not publicly; and that you do not admit other guests, otherwise than is stated above, to the diet allowed you on account of your health. Provided always that you shall contribute and pay into the poor box of the parish in which you shall then live 6s. 8d. yearly, according to the statute of Parliament of the fifth year of our most serene lady E., etc., in this respect set forth and provided. We desire also that you will fulfil and observe all other and singular things which are contained in the said statute, other laws and customs whatsoever to the contrary notwithstanding. Given under seal to the Faculties, the first day of March in the year of our Lord, according to the computation of the Anglican church, 1597, and in the fifteenth year of our translation.

Letters patent confirming the above.

P. 37.

Kent.

R., son of B., renders account of £9 12s., blank, for the old farm of Kent. He has paid into the Treasury. And he is quit.

And the same for the new farm. In the Treasury £48 13s. 11d., blank.

And in alms appointed to the Knights Templars 2 mk. And in tithes appointed to the monks of S<sup>t</sup> A. £10, by tale. And to the sick of R. 41s. 5d.

And in liveries appointed to the porter of C. 20s., because he is the public executioner. And to the gatekeeper and watchman of D. £6 1s. 8d.



And in lands in Deal given to the Knights Templars £6, blank. And to the same in Strood £13, blank. And to the same in Kingswood 20s., by tale. And to R. B. in T. £5, blank . . . . And to H., son of A. C., £83 10s., by tale, for completing 100 librates of land which the king gave to his father. And to the nuns of S. £1 19s. 3d. in custom of the land in G. And in Dover £24, blank, for which a separate account must be rendered. And to the Church of Christ, C., £25, by tale, in M., for completing 40 librates of land which the King gave to God and the Blessed Thomas . . . . And to R., sister of S<sup>t</sup> Thomas, £11 of the king's alms in the mill of C. And to the hospital of B. £5 in L. for providing two chaplains and their clerks for ever for funeral services at the hospital . . . .

And by repairs to the wall round Dover castle £165 13s. 4d. by the king's writ and the view of P. P., etc. And he is quit.

Etc., etc., etc.

P. 47. Pleas at W. before W. H. and his associates, justices of the king *de banco*, Trinity term in the first year of the reign of king Edward, the third from the conquest.

. . . . .

Kent. The sheriff was charged to take with him four discreet and lawful knights of his county and in his own person to go to the court of the abbot of W. at W., and in that full court cause to be recorded a plea, which was in that same court without the king's writ, between R. B. and I. C. concerning a certain horse of the same R. taken and unlawfully detained, as is said. And that he should have that record here on this day, etc., under his seal and the seals of four lawful men of that court, of those who took part in that record. And that he should appoint the same day for the parties, that then they should be present, as was just, at the plea which was to be heard. And the sheriff did nothing therein, but reported that no court had been held there since the receipt of the said writ. Therefore, as before, the sheriff was charged that taking with him, etc., he should go to the aforesaid court and cause the said plea to be recorded, etc., and have the record here on the morrow of All Souls under the seal, etc. And the same day to the parties, etc.

J. W. by H. W., his attorney, offered himself on the 4<sup>th</sup> day against T. T. of S. concerning a plea that he should render him a reasonable account of the time when he was in receipt of the monies of the said J., etc. And he himself did not come and was attached by W. W. and W. O. Therefore they are in mercy. And the sheriff was ordered to distrain him throughout all his lands, etc. And that concerning the issues, etc. And that he have his body here on the octave of Michaelmas, etc., by J. B., etc.

Pleas before the king at W., Michaelmas term in the first year of the reign of king Henry VIII.

Kent. J. C. of C., knight, lord of C. and S., by his attorney offered himself on the 4<sup>th</sup> day against J. B., late of P. by W. in the aforesaid county, yeoman, and J. T., late of M. in the said county, gentleman, concerning a plea why by force and arms they seized and abducted J., found at F., the son and heir of T. G., gentleman, being within age, whose marriage belongs to the said J. C., against the will of the said J. C. and against the peace of king H. VII., late king of E., our father. And meanwhile inquire diligently where that heir is in your bailiwick and, wherever he shall be found, take him and guard him safely and securely, so that you may have him before us at the aforesaid term, wherever we shall be in E., to deliver him up to whichever of the said J. C., J. B., J. T. he ought to be delivered. And they did not appear, and the sheriff was ordered to attach them, etc. And the sheriff returned that they were attached by the pledge of J. D. and R. M. Therefore they are in mercy, etc. And the sheriff is ordered to distrain them throughout all their lands, etc. And that concerning the issues, etc. And that he have their bodies before the king on the quindene of St Martin, wherever, etc.

Also at another time, *i.e.*, on Tuesday next after the Epiphany in the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of the reign of H., late king of E., the seventh after the conquest, at M. in the aforesaid county, before J. F., knight, etc., and other justices of the said late king assigned to keep the peace in the said county and also to hear and determine divers felonies, etc., it was presented by the oath of twelve jurors that W. R., late of C. in the said county, tailor, on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November in the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of the said late king, by force and arms, viz., with swords, staves and knives, broke and entered the close and house of J. D. at C. aforesaid and feloniously purloined, took and carried away of the goods and chattels of the aforesaid J. D., then and there found, against the peace of the said king, a garment of violet colour worth 10s., a pillow case worth 2s., a pair of cuffs, called "Women slevys," worth 7d., and a pair of shears, called tailor's shears, worth 12d., etc.

P. 49. The assize comes to declare if J. H. and W. W. have unjustly, etc., disseised R. M. of his free tenement in W. since the last, etc. And J. & W. come and say nothing wherefore the assize should be stayed. And therefore the assize proceeds. And the jurors say that J. and W. did not disseise him, because the same R. had a brother, H. by name, and their inheritance was divided between them in Gavelkind. So that the said tenement fell to the share of the said H., and H. sold the same tenement to a certain L., and L. to others, through whom J. and W. have that land. So



that R. never had seisin of that tenement and was not, etc. So J. and W. are thereof quit and R. is in mercy. Let him be taken into custody. Afterwards he found a pledge for his amercement, to wit, R. H., the son of D.

R. of A., W. D., P. R. and W. of B., four knights (summoned to choose twelve to make the declaration of the grand assize between E. of S. and R. his brother, demandants, and T. of T. and I. his wife, tenants, concerning  $6\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land with the appurtenances in P., wherefore the aforesaid T. and I., who are the tenants, put themselves upon the grand assize of our lord the king and ask for recognition, whether they have a greater right in those lands than the said E. and R.) came and chose these: R. of A., etc.

A day is given them, as from day to day, on Tuesday next after the octave of St. D. A concord was made for half a mark, which T. of T. gives by pledge of R. P.

The grand assize comes to declare by R. of A., etc., whether A. T., who holds, has a greater right in 3 acres and 3 perches of land in Maidstone than W. N. and A. his wife, who demand, etc. And know that, because the land is of his fee, that assize is taken in the Archbishop's court before his bailiffs, the justices being present. And the jurors say that A., who holds, has a greater right in that land than the aforesaid W. and A., who demand, and they show sufficient reasons. And it is therefore held that A. and his heirs may hold that land in peace, quit for ever of the said W. and A., and their heirs for ever. And W. and A. are in mercy.

P. 50.

Pleas of the Crown.

Hundred of Blackheath.

S. of O. and M. of the same vill killed a certain groom of the county of Gloucester at the stone cross on Blackheath. And M. of R. of Greenwich [was] the first finder, and came not, and therefore is in mercy for default. And they, S. and M. are suspected. Let them be taken. They are not found, therefore let them be exacted and outlawed. No englishry was presented. Judgment: murder.

The township of Rochester is in mercy because they have claimed for themselves liberty to hold pleas in their town, which they had not.

R. of H. killed A. the son of H. with a knife at M. in the house of W. the son of H. And the jurors say that a certain R. P. was outlawed by the county for that death, and afterwards



the county disavowed this, and therefore to judgment concerning the jurors. And E. the mother of the said A. wished to prosecute that death, but had not dared on account of R. of G., then sheriff, because when she desired to prosecute he imprisoned her and also her two brothers. No englishry was presented. Judgment: murder.

Hundred of Twyford.

T. of T., chaplain, fell from his horse into a certain water so that he was drowned, and no one is suspected. Judgment: misadventure. The price of the horse, 10s., which B. bishop of Rochester afterwards received.

P. 50. Pleas of Quo Warranto.

County of Kent.

The abbot of W. was summoned to answer the king concerning a plea by what warrant he claimed to have the return of all the king's writs in his manors of W., etc., with the plea of vee de naam (illegal distraint) and view of frank pledge, infangthief and outfangthief, fines and amercements of his men, together with all franchises and free customs which the royal power could confer on any religious house, etc.

And the abbot, by his attorney, comes and says that E., etc., are hamlets of the aforesaid manor of W., and he says that king E., father of the present king, granted and confirmed to God and the church of St. P. at W., and to a certain W., sometime abbot, his predecessor, and to the convent of that place and their successors the aforesaid manor of W., with the appurtenances together with the liberty of having the return of all the king's writs, etc., in the aforesaid manor with the appurtenances, etc. And he produces a charter of the said king, E., father, etc., which testifies to the said grant and confirmation, the date of which is at B., 30th of October, in the 20th year of the reign of the father of the same king, and by this warrant, etc. And as to having all the liberties and free customs, etc., according as is contained in the aforesaid writ, etc., by this he claims nothing, etc.

And G. H., who follows on behalf of the king, asks that the country should enquire how the said abbot and his predecessors, from the time of the granting of the said charter up to now, have made use of those liberties, etc. Therefore let a jury be called.

The jurors of the hundreds of A., etc., say on their oath that the aforesaid abbot and his predecessors, from the time of the granting of the aforesaid charter until now, had the aforesaid liberties and have used them without interruption; but they say that they have been accustomed to hold the view of frank pledge at their courts at W. every three weeks, therefore the aforesaid liberties may be allowed to the said abbot saving the king's right.

And because it was found by that jury that the aforesaid abbot, and similarly his immediate predecessor, have up to now held the aforesaid view in their court aforesaid every three weeks against law and custom, etc., the said abbot is forbidden by the justices to abuse further that liberty, and that he hold the aforesaid view in future twice a year only, etc. Afterwards W. B., bailiff of the said abbot, who held the said court, made a fine with the king for 40s. by the pledge of R. S., junior, J. U., etc.

P. 52. This is the final concord made in the court of our lord the king, held at W. on the third Sunday after Easter in the 7th year of the reign of king Richard, etc., between R., abbot of Boxley, and the convent of that place, demandants, and O. and A., his wife, tenants, by the same O., made their attorney to gain or lose concerning the land of W. in respect of which there was a suit between them in the aforesaid court, to wit, that the said abbot and convent of B. have quit-claimed to the aforesaid O. and A. his wife and their heirs all right and claim which they had to the said land of W., together with the appurtenances. And for this fine and concord and quit-claim the aforesaid O. and A., his wife, have now given to the said abbot, etc., 6 marks sterling. And besides they have given to them in pure and perpetual alms 2s. rent of the mill of C. to be paid annually at two terms, to wit, half at Easter and the other half at Michaelmas. So that O. and A. or their heirs can claim nothing in the aforesaid mill, except the grinding for their own house of H., and should they be impleaded for unlawful grinding the abbot of the said place will judge his millers on this account in his court. Further they give yearly, they and their heirs, to the aforesaid abbot and convent, 2s. from the land of O., from which the ancestors of the aforesaid A. used yearly to give 12*d*. They have also quit-claimed to the aforesaid abbot and convent for themselves and their heirs all the right which they said that they had in the [?] houses of the Archdeacon of Rochester in London on the Thames, and all that claim and right of theirs which they said they had in the tenement of the park-keepers of B. Further they have granted to the monks the right to fish freely and quietly in the Medway, opposite their land.

P. 53. J. C. in his own person sues J. H. and H. his wife for four messuages and two gardens with the appurtenances in T. as his right and inheritance. And into which the same J. H. and H. had no entry save after the disseisin that H. Hunt thereof unlawfully and without judgment [of a court] did to the aforesaid J. C. within thirty years now last past, etc. And in respect of which he says that he himself was seised of the said tenements with the appurtenances in his demesne as of fee and right in time of peace in time of the present king, taking esplees therefrom to the value, etc. And in which, etc. And thereupon he produces suit, etc. And the aforesaid J. H. and H. in their own persons



come and defend their right when, etc. And they vouch to warranty thereof E. H. who is present here in court in his own person. And he willingly warrants them the tenements, etc. And thereupon the aforesaid J. C. sues the same E., the tenant, by his warranty, for the aforesaid tenements with the appurtenances in the form aforesaid, etc. And in respect of which he says that he himself was seised of the said tenements with the appurtenances in his demesne as of fee and right in time of peace in time of the present king, taking esplees thereof to the value, etc.

And the said E., tenant by warranty, defends his right, when, etc. And he says the aforesaid H. did not disseise the aforesaid J. C. of the said tenements with the appurtenances in his demesne as of fee and right, in time of peace in the time of the present king, taking esplees therefrom to the value, etc. And in which, etc., and thereupon he produces suit, etc. And the aforesaid E., holding by his warranty, defends his right when, etc. And says that the aforesaid Hugh did not disseise the aforesaid J. C. of the aforesaid tenements with the appurtenances, as the same J. C. by his aforesaid writ and count above supposes. And touching this he puts himself upon the country, etc. And the aforesaid J. C. craves licence to imparl thereon. And he has, etc. And afterwards the same J. C. returns here into court in the same term in his own person. And the said E., although solemnly called does not return, but in contempt of court withdraws and makes default. Therefore it is adjudged that the aforesaid J. C. recover his seisin of the said tenements with the appurtenances against the aforesaid J. H. and H., and that the same J. H. and H. may have of the lands of the said E. to the value, etc. And the said E. is in mercy, etc. And hereupon the aforesaid J. C. craves a writ of the king to the sheriff of the county to cause him to have full seisin of the said tenements with the appurtenances and it is granted to him returnable here on the morrow of All Souls, etc. On which day the aforesaid J. C. comes here in his own person. And the sheriff, viz., E. C., esquire, now sends word that, by virtue of the aforesaid writ directed to him on the 26th October last past, he caused the said J. C. to have full seisin of the aforesaid tenements with the appurtenances, according as he was ordered by that writ, etc.

P. 59. The abbot of L. is attached to answer the king in a plea of trespass, and touching which R. B., who follows for the king, says that the said abbot, in the time in which the priory of the Holy Trinity in London was in the king's hand after the death of the prior of that place, threw down and caused to be thrown down a certain dyke in the vill of L. which in past times, during the life of the aforesaid prior of the Holy Trinity, as in fee and demesne of the said prior, had been made and raised, and afterwards made a road there in contempt of the king and to his damage, etc.

And the said abbot comes and defends the wrong and everything, etc. And says positively that he never threw down that



dyke, nor caused it to be thrown down, nor made any road there, nor even did any trespass. And he asks that this should be inquired into. Therefore it is ordered that he cause to come 12, etc., as well knights as, etc., on the quindene of Michaelmas to certify, etc. On which day the inquisition comes by A. T. and others, as appears, etc., jurors, who say on their oath that the aforesaid abbot, neither by himself nor by another whomsoever, raised nor threw down any dyke in the time aforesaid, nor committed any trespass. Therefore it is adjudged that the aforesaid abbot go thence, quit, etc.

P. 60. A. H. is attached to answer J. C. and G. R. and their fellows, executors of the will of S. R., deceased, who was bound to the king in diverse debts on the day he died, touching 27 marks, which the same A. owed the said deceased for the farm of his church of C., and touching 20 marks, which he owed the said deceased for the farm of his manor of W., and which he unjustly detains from them to the damage, etc. And the aforesaid A. came and acknowledged himself to be bound in the aforesaid 27 marks and also in the 20 marks for the above-mentioned farms, of which he will pay them half at the festival of Pentecost in the 22nd year of the reign of king E., and the other half at All Saints next ensuing. And, unless he shall do this, he has granted that from his lands and chattels shall be made, etc. And at the instance of the same executors the sheriff of Kent is ordered that they [*sic*, he] allow the said A. to have free administration of the goods and chattels of the said A. in the said manor of W.

P. 71. In the name of God, Amen. In the year 1515, 27 October, I. John Cheseman, of Chesilherste, [give] my body to be buried in the cemetery of Chesilhurst. To the high altar, 20*d*. To the high altar of Eltham, 20*d*. To the high altar of Ligth (Lee), 20*d*. I bequeath for "le braunche" hanging before the crucifix of the church of Cheslehurst, 12*d*. For St. Mary's light in the middle of the church, 6*d*. For St. Mary's light on the horn of altar, 6*d*. For St. Christopher's light, 4*d*. I bequeath for St. Mary Magdalene's light, 4*d*. The residue I bequeath to Thomas Cheseman, my son, my executor.

P. 75. W. E. comes to this court on Wednesday on the quindene of St. John the Baptist and acknowledges the subsequent writing to be his deed. And he asks for it to be enrolled. And it is enrolled in these words.

To all the faithful of Christ to whom the present writing shall come, W. E. [sends] greeting in the Lord. Know ye that I have granted and by this present writing have confirmed for myself and my heirs to H. J. of A. and his heirs and assigns a certain annual rent of 24 qrs. of measured (?) barley to be taken and received yearly at the festival of All Saints and at the festival of the Purification, by equal portions for ever, from a messuage, forty acres of land with

the appurtenances in M. in the Isle of T., concerning which tenements a plea of covenant was summoned at W., in Michaelmas term in the 20th year of the reign of king E., son of king E., before H. S. and his associates then justices *de banco*, between W. E., plaintiff, and M. N. and I. his wife, deforciant. And I, the aforesaid W. E., grant for myself and my heirs that the said H. and his heirs and assigns may distrain in the aforesaid tenements and in any part of the same, as often as and whensoever the said rent shall be in arrear, in part or in whole, and may retain the distrains until of the said arrears of rent he shall be fully satisfied, into whosoever hands the aforesaid tenements shall have come. In testimony whereof my seal is appended. Given at A., etc.

H. J. of A. came into this court on Wednesday on the quindene of St. John the Baptist and acknowledged this following writing to be his deed. And he asked for it to be enrolled. And it is enrolled in these words.

To all those who shall see or hear this letter, I, H. J., etc., greeting. As W. E. is held, and by himself and his heirs bound to me and my heirs and assigns in an annuity of 24 qrs. of barley to be taken and received from a messuage and 40 acres of land in M., in the Isle of T., for ever. Know ye that I, the aforesaid H., grant by these presents that if the said W. or his heirs pay to me, or to my heirs, £36 at the festival of St. Lucy next following the making of this writing, then the aforesaid W. and his heirs shall be quit of the aforesaid annuity of 24 qrs. of barley and the obligatory writing of the said annuity shall be held as null and void. So that nevertheless if W. or his heirs fail in the payment of the £36 aforesaid on the said day, then the obligatory writing of the aforesaid annuity shall be in force. In witness, etc.

P. 77. The account of T. H., steward of B., from the Friday next after the festival of St. Nicholas in the 18th year of the reign of king E., son of king E., to Michaelmas next following, in the beginning of the 19th year.

*Rents of assize.*—The same answers for 6s. 5d. for rent of assize due at St. Thomas the Apostle. And for 7s. 11½d. for rent of assize due at Xmas. And for 25 hens due at the same term . . .

Total 65s. 5¾d.

*Annual gift.*—The same answers for 4s. 3¼d. for an annual gift due at Michaelmas.

Total 4s. 3¼d.

*Customary services.*—The same answers for 2s. from 24 reapers. And for 4d. from 8 men binding in the lord's meadow as customary for 1 day.

Total 2s. 4d.

*Issues of the manor.*—The same answers for 5s. for summer pasture, sold at S. And for 20d. for free (?) pasture at B., sold by the lord.

Total 6s. 8d.

*Sale of corn.*—The same answers for 14s. 6d. for 1 qr 6½ bus. wheat sold at 8s. the quarter and no more because it was mouldy.



And for 5s. 4d. for 2 quarters winter oats at 2s. 8d. the quarter  
Total 37s. 4d.

*Affeerment received.*—The same answers for 41s. 6d. received  
from P. B. Total 41s. 6d.

Total of all the receipts £7 17s.

*Rents resolute.*—By rent resolute at B. per annum 5s. 1d. By  
rent resolute at D. per annum 4s. 6d. [over 6s. erased] because the  
lord paid 18d., at the four principal terms . . . . Total 19s. 9d.

*Defaults of rent of tenements in the lord's hands.*—By default  
of rent for the term of St. Thomas, 7d., as appears by particulars.  
For the term of Xmas 2s. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. . . . Total 16s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

By default of annual gift 2s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. By default of 9 reapers 9d.  
By default of haymakers 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., because the lands are in the lord's  
hands. Total 2s. 11d.

*Upkeep of ploughs.*—By 1 piece of iron bought 2d., for shoeing  
the plough. By castings for the said shoe 3s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Paid the smith  
part of his wages 2s. 1d., and the lord paid him 2s. . . . .  
Total 10s. 11d.

*Threshing corn.*—By 57 qrs. wheat and coral thrashed by the  
task 16s. 4d., at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. the quarter . . . . By winnowing all the corn  
and oats 5s. 8d., at 1d. for three quarters . . . . Total 36s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

*Sundries.*—By 1 bolt (?) 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. By 2 pieces of iron for the flail  
and 1 for the winnower 3d. . . . By 8 pairs of hooks and rides  
bought for the falcons' cage 5d. By making a mattock 2d. . . .

#### Corn Account.

*Wheat.*—The same answers for 5 q<sup>rs</sup> 5 bus. wheat of the issue  
of B., for 8 bus. struck measure by 2 tallies against W. M. And  
for 1 q<sup>r</sup> 1 bus. 1 peck coral of the same from the same by the same  
tallies . . . .

Thereof he has delivered to P., the cook, for the use of the  
household 9 q<sup>rs</sup> 6 bus. wheat by 1 tally . . . . The same has  
delivered to N., the baker, for the said use 18 q<sup>rs</sup> 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  bus. wheat by  
1 tally . . . . By baked bread for distribution to the poor, for the  
soul of M. of I., 1 q<sup>r</sup> wheat without a tally . . . . Agrees.

*Barley.*—The same answers for 3 q<sup>rs</sup> 4 bus. barley received  
from A. E. reeve of S., by 1 tally . . . . Total 14 q<sup>rs</sup> 6 bus.

Thereof he has delivered to P., the cook, for malting, 2 q<sup>rs</sup> by  
1 tally of maslin with mixed corn, 12 q<sup>rs</sup> 6 bus. as below. Agrees.

*Beans.*—The same answers for 9 q<sup>rs</sup> 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  bus. beans issue of  
the month as before by 1 tally against P. H. And for 1 bus. coral  
received from the same by the same tally. Total 9 q<sup>rs</sup> 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  bus.

Thereof by sowing on 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres in B., 2 q<sup>rs</sup> 2 bus., 3 bus. to the  
acre . . . . He has delivered to P., the cook, to distribute to the  
poor in summer 1 q<sup>r</sup> 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  bus. by 1 tally . . . . Also he has delivered  
to P., the cook, 3 bus. beans by 1 tally for fattening the hog . . . .

Agrees.

*Pease.*—The same answers for 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  q<sup>rs</sup> pease, issue of the month  
as before received by 1 tally against P. H. . . . . Total 6 q<sup>rs</sup>.



Thereof in sowing on  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres in B.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  bus. on 6 acres, and in W. 1 q<sup>r</sup> 7 bus. . . . . Agrees.

*Vetches*.—The same answers for 9 q<sup>rs</sup> 5 bus. vetches, issue of the month as before by 1 tally against P. H. . . . .

Total 14 q<sup>rs</sup> 1 bus.

Thereof in sowing on 8 acres in R. 1 q<sup>r</sup> 7 bus. . . . . He has delivered to W. B. 4 bus. vetches by the lord's order. Agrees.

*Winter oats*.—The same answers for 14 q<sup>rs</sup> 7 bus. winter oats, issue of the month as before, etc. . . . . And for 3 q<sup>rs</sup> oats received from W. P., as appears by an indenture. Total 25 q<sup>rs</sup>  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bus.

Thereof he has delivered to P., the cook, for making flour, 11 q<sup>rs</sup> winter oats by 1 tally. Also he has delivered to J. B., the huntsman, for the dogs, 5 q<sup>rs</sup> . . . . . Agrees.

*Drauck*.—The same answers for 9 q<sup>rs</sup> 5 bus. dredge, issue of the month, etc. . . . . And for 3 q<sup>rs</sup> dredge received from T. F.

Total 12 q<sup>rs</sup> 5 bus.

Thereof he has delivered to J. B., the huntsman, for the dogs, 1 q<sup>r</sup> by tally in which are reckoned mixed oats with oats for provender, 11 q<sup>rs</sup> 5 bus. Agrees.

P. 79. Court of Boxley held on Tuesday next before the festival of the Apostles Simon and Jude in the eleventh year of the reign of Edward, son of king Edward.

Essoins of the common suit.

Simon Godelin for the second time by John Massun, etc.

M. who was the wife of T. S. paid relief and did fealty for the land which fell to her after the death of the said T., and the aforesaid M. undertook the upbringing of J. and T., sons of the said T., and found pledges for good guardianship, R. H. and J. W. Paid ["not" erased] 16*d*. And there were no chattels on our fee.

J. P. did fealty and paid relief for the lands and tenements acquired together with J. son of W. S., and the relief is  $2\frac{1}{4}$ *d*. He paid.

W. B. acknowledges in full court that he is bound, as appears by a certain tally, to J. M. of M. in 1 fleet of oak-bark, and to R. R. in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  fleets; and a day is given him to satisfy them before the next court, and nevertheless he is in mercy. He did not pay.

S. P. is elected by judgment of the court to collect and to receive lot and scot in the dene of S. and the beadle is to tell him this.

J. R. accused of withholding suit, the same being present, says that he does not owe suit, and vouches his warranty. And his mesne, R. R., who is present, says and confesses that he ought to defend the same R., wherefore the said R. as regards the accusation is quit.

R. L. came to the court and healed the default made in the previous court and puts himself in mercy. The same accused that he reaped the lord's corn beyond the limits and bounds established, appropriating to himself the lord's land, being present, does not deny this, and puts himself altogether in the lord's mercy.

. . . . .

Also it is commanded the beadle that he distrain T. P. to answer the lord for that he, in contempt of the lord, makes himself a bailiff without warrant, distraining the tenants of the lord in the lord's holding. Let him distrain after better enquiry.

. . . . .

It is commanded the beadle that he distrain J. S. and others for destruction and for damage done in the lord's oats by their pigs.

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